

# Rome - September 2009

# The Standridges



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## Are You Fast?

*Elisa came home with a great story after her first day of school. In the midst of all the new and exciting things going on, up to Elisa came one of her brand new class-mates. This little girl knew how to get to the point. She looked at Elisa and her first and only words were: "Are you fast?" Elisa with no hesitation replied with a simple and fast "Yes!" Immediately they got in position and ready for the race. The race took place and Elisa's proud father is happy to report Elisa won!*

Well, let's get to the point and let me share some "fast" news with you.

- Echoes from Bolzano have been very encouraging. Just a few days ago we received a glorious email from Ettore, one of the men who attended the ongoing Bible study we had started. He wrote *"Thank you, thank you and thank you again for your work in my life. My wife and I have opened our hearts to Christ! We are so happy!"* Friends, they've started the race! We continue to see God's hand in Bolzano and, as we already shared, we are convinced that the seed you and we planted together will continue to bear fruit in awesome ways.
- Our first steps in Rome are very exciting. After a few days in our new home, we were glad to move our boxes around to make space for five overnight guests. Many others have already been at our place for a visit or a meal. The other day we brought food over to our new neighbor who had recently had surgery. Good foundations are also being laid with the ones who live above us for friendship and sharing the message of God's love.
- Tomorrow, in our home, we are expecting about 10 young men from our church who are eager to start being disciplined to the next step. We are so excited to see how the church here in Rome is happy to have us and we are seeing God at work in our adjustment here in a big way. A new leg of the race in our ministry has begun and we are so thankful to God for the way He is blessing our transition to new opportunities.

Friends, God requires us to wear Gospel shoes so that we are ready to move and go. Ephesians 6:15 is quite clear on this! What if Elisa's friend came up to you and asked... "Are you fast?" May we run faithfully the race set before us. With much love, gratitude to you for running alongside us, and four big hugs,



*Elisa, Simeon, Stephanie and Steve Standridge*

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