

# Rome - November 2009

# The Standridges



The Standridges  
Steve, Stephanie, Simeon, Elisa  
Address:  
Via Prassitele, 16F  
00125 Roma (RM), Italy  
Tel: 011-39-06-52350677  
E-mail: standridgess@hotmail.com

## Are You Thankful?

Dear Italy Team,

Thanksgiving season is here! God is asking you and us: "Are you thankful?" Our answer here is: "Yes, at least three times, YES!" And we even have Scripture for it!

1. Proverbs 11:14. YES, we experienced the strength of your involvement in our lives. 2009 started with the great question of possible changes in our place of ministry. God was so faithful in speaking through His Word and through the wise counsel of many of you. We praise God as we remember your precious comfort in times of adversity. We were never alone!

2. I Corinthians 16:9. YES, we had left from Kokomo, in the Summer of 2007, with the awareness that God had opened a great door for service in Bolzano. As we mentioned in our last letter, God is continuing to bless the seed we were able to plant. We are staying in touch with those who made a profession of faith and their love for Jesus continues to grow.

3. I Corinthians 3:5-11. YES, Paul's God-given words at the beginning of the same letter clearly indicate that God's open doors are to be walked through at different times by different people. It does not shock us that God could move us again. Now we are watering and planting at the same time and God is blessing mightily once again. Last Wednesday we had a second evangelistic home Bible study in our home. We are amazed to see how quickly, once more, God has allowed us to reach unsaved souls and start a Bible study with them. Praise God for Alberto, Riccardo and Agnese. God's work continues!

God constantly gives us new opportunities to share the Gospel. We must share one more example. Yesterday the father of one of Elisa's schoolmates opened his heart with me in a very unexpected way. He is a surgeon and his successful career came at the expense of his marriage. He is now divorced from his wife, he is obviously suffering, he told me he recognizes his mistakes, and now his conscience is not allowing him to participate in the mass of the Catholic church he attends.

He asked me for my phone number. I could not believe he shared so much about himself after an espresso together! God is undoubtedly allowing our family to bring light and hope into this needy home.

We know this could be one of many stories yet to be written in God's book of salvation and life. We are so thankful! Please pray for this family.

Friends, we are here because He sent us, and you came alongside us. Please know we cannot do it apart from these two key components. We are His ambassadors and you are the ones He is using to keep His embassy open here in Rome! As we come to the end of 2009 please know our hearts are very grateful to Him and to you.

Now, as we look to 2010, we do need to ask you to please pray for the future as more than one strong supporter has communicated a need to stop with their contributions. These are difficult times and our thanks go to these who have helped us greatly as well as to those who will be able to step in and stand in the gap.

One last item of thanks from the Standridge home. We have a new addition to the family. Simeon and Elisa are proud to present Robby (Robbe is the German word for seal...see any resemblances?). He's everything but a pure breed, but lots of fun and a great companion through their new transition. Many have dogs in our neighborhood and Robby is a great contact maker as well! He's a true member of the team!



We wish you a great end-of the-Year season! May your thoughts be filled with joy as gratefulness prepares your hearts for Christmas times of worship and God-led expectations for the New Year. In His grace we send you our love and our “quattro grandi abbracci”, (four big hugs),

*Elisa, Simeon, Stephanie and Steve Standridge...and Robby*

