

Lewis and Tammy Short in Milan, Italy Email: short@milanoteam.org

Sponsoring church: Ross Road Church of Christ in Memphis, TN

Missions contact: David Franklin dfranklin@airdusco.com

1st Quarter 2010 Work Report

Around Italy, Interaction with individuals and small groups,

Community Collaboration, Finances

We thank all of you for your support and prayers. We feel blessed by God's patience and loving kindness toward us.

Lewis and Tammy

Around Italy

- January 6, Lewis was the speaker at conference in Padua (near Venice). He spoke from the "one another" passages in Romans to a crowd of mostly Italians and Ghanaians.
- January 9, in Rome for an organizing meeting for the summer Italy-wide young people's camp
- January 10, preached at the congregation in Florence, where Lewis still has a lot of dear friends (from his Avanti Italia time there 1995-97).
- In February, Lewis went with Albanian brother Bledi to a Italy-wide men's retreat in Prato. This was the first time that Bledi has attended a national meeting like this, which was good leadership training for him.
- In March, Tammy took 7 ladies from Milan with her to the national ladies' retreat near Florence. This was the largest group ever from our congregation that has attended, and has already encouraged the ladies here to be more active together.

Interaction with Individuals and Small Groups

- In January, Lewis spent time visiting with Jay Young, former missionary to Italy.
- We have been doing on-going marriage counseling with three couples from the church.
- Sundays afternoons, another American family hosts an English Bible study in their home. Members who have attended come from Sri Lanka, Albania and the Philippines.
- Lewis studies twice a week with five Italian contacts made through the Let's Start Talking campaigns this past fall.
- The "mid-week" church Bible study on Monday night in the home of members has had an average increase in attendance, and seems to be meeting the needs of several newer members.
- Lewis studies with three boys every Wednesday afternoon, working through the gospel of John to see who Jesus is, and what a commitment to Him involves.
- Due to distance and scheduling difficulties, Tammy has started having a "telephone" weekly Bible study/mentoring time with young lady in the church, on Wednesday nights.
- We have spent several occasions in the past several months with our neighbors Mario and Francesca. We have also resumed contact with Mary Colotti, with whom we have studied in the past. Mary lives on the other side of Milan from us, so is more difficult to see, but we have good friendships with both of these families (both have daughters), and have the opportunity to share the gospel based on this foundation of friendship.

Community Collaboration

- In January, the church said farewell to it's oldest member, Rosina Bocchialini, 97 years old, who passed on to be with the Lord. Her son Gianni and his wife still attend church here.
- The Milan congregation sent financial aid to both Haiti and Chile, after the earthquakes in those countries.
- The Italian word for congregation is *comunità*, we as the Milan church are trying to live in

community, to be the kind of neighbors to each other about which Jesus speaks, to make decisions as a true fellowship of believers. To encourage community we started offering hot tea after services. At first, we (Lewis and Tammy) brought cake, since then other members have brought refreshments of their own to share. It is good to see people take ownership and initiative, even in the small things.

- The congregation is doing maintenance and “spring cleaning” in conjunction with replacing the heating system. Several of the men have been working with Lewis moving, fixing, and organizing things around the building.
- The current church treasurer is retiring, and a younger member, Marco Colello, is taking over that role. Financial laws in Italy are quite complex, and we pray for wisdom and maturity for Marco as he learns the ropes and the responsibilities required of him.
- We are making plans for several evangelistic campaigns (utilizing both Italian and American groups) for May and June. Please keep these in your prayers.
- As was mentioned in our last report, the Milan church has invited Bob and Marla Housby to come and work here in conjunction with our planned return to the U.S. The congregation recently decided to support the Housby’s almost \$450/month, as a means of participating in and committing to the Housby’s future ministry in Milan. We are proud of this step of maturity that the church here has taken. To see this in perspective, when we arrived in 1999 the Milan church had committed to supplying what I needed for an office space. Several years later, when inviting Katy Cross, an intern with the Avanti Italia program, they agreed to support her at almost \$300/month. Now they are increasing their ownership of the work here. You can get to know the Housbys at www.theitalianmemorandum.org .
- It seems, as often happens, that things are “gearing up” and getting busier in this year before our departure, instead of winding down. We have quite a few plans and projects for the next 9 months, and we ask for your prayers, that we may continue to walk and lead the Milan congregation in God’s will and His way, for His glory and pleasure.