

Your prayers have been answered!

2006 A YEAR OF GREAT BLESSINGS

As we look back at last year we marvel at God's goodness and blessings. We do not take for granted your faithful prayers and financial support. Eleven students participated in the Systematic Theology Program, twenty-four in the Bible Survey Program, and seventeen in the Expository Preaching Program. Four students finished the second year of the Expository Preaching Program.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Comments from FOCUS attendees
- Construction expands
- Come to Italy with us

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

FOCUS CONFERENCE

The messages by Dr. John MacArthur, Tom Pennington and William Standridge were a great challenge for the 239 participants. The emphasis of the conference was evangelization and the messages encouraged all those attending to be totally committed to reaching the lost, but without diluting the message or trying to find new "methods". Pastor Standridge, one of the Aurora missionaries, who has been serving in Italy for over 56 years stated that he has watched many missionaries come and go over the years trying many methods, but the only one that he saw work was the preaching of the Word of God. What an encouragement for us as we train men in preaching to be reminded that it is through the faithful preaching of the Word of God that the Lord opens the hearts and minds of men and reaches down to save them.

All those that participated turned in an evaluation form, here are some of their comments:

Stefano from Rome - *I found this conference wonderful, it is helping me to change and now I can transmit what I have learned to others as Titus 2:1 says.*

Rocco from Siena - *I enjoyed the profound teaching and I want to grow in following the example of Christ in my life.*

Gaetano from Sicily - *I realize that I need to work harder and do things in a way that glorifies Christ.*

Giampiero from Sardinia - *I was blessed by the clarity and never superficial exposition of the Word of God. I realize that we need to be saddened by the reality of the Evangelical*

Church in Italy and need to change.

Giovanni from Termoli - *It was a blessing to hear messages based only on the Word of God.*

As you can see God is working in Italy; challenging men to be faithful to God's calling and is using the different activities of the Italian Theological Academy to produce a renewed desire to faithful preaching.





THE ACADEMY

We are so grateful to God for the 56 students we had during the last year. Through the Academy we are able to reach all over Italy. Our students live in 24 different cities, from 12 different regions of Italy and represent 14 churches. We look forward to this year as we introduce a new program in Biblical Counseling. So many of the leaders have requested help in learning to counsel their church members following Biblical principles and methods. Carey Hardy, Senior Pastor of Twin City Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC will be heading this three year program.



CONSTRUCTION NEWS

It was wonderful to be able to have the student housing on campus. We were able to purchase one more prefab at the end of October. We still need about \$2,000.00 for the air-conditioning and for the hook up to the sewer system.



WHO SHOULD INTERPRET THE BIBLE?

As you know our core program at ITA is Expository Preaching. How to teach the Bible with faithfulness.

According to the RCC catechism only the "Church" has the right and authority and ability to teach. That is why many catholics don't read the Bible and rely on the priest to explain it to them and, many times, believe that even though what they read seems different from what they are taught the problem is in everyone else's personal interpretation of Scriptures.

The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, the Pope and the bishops in communion with him (CCC 100).

Our goal at the Academy is to provide every student with the tools necessary to understand and explain the Word of God faithfully. In a country like Italy, where most of the men have been brought up to think that they are not capable of understanding and explaining the Scriptures, our role is vital. As you witness to Roman Catholics it is very important that you always use a Bible and show the verses you are quoting as it is your only authority.

Once completed we will be able to house 21 students or seven couples. Our desire is to have three more units in place before the end of the year. It would be wonderful to have enough housing for all the students for our Bible Survey course in August. To purchase the needed units we need about \$100,000.00. Please pray that God would provide the funds in His timing.

PUBLISHING

At this time we are working on two new books, *Safe in the Arms of God* by Dr. John MacArthur and *Famine in the Land* by Dr. Steve Lawson. We have been promised the funds to publish the first book and we need to raise about \$8,000.00 for the second. Both books will be given as a gift at our FOCUS 2007 conference. Being able to give all participants a free copy of the MacArthur Study Bible in Italian will be the highlight of the conference. This will be a marvelous tool in the hands of those that want to study the Word of God faithfully.

FOCUS 2007

October 9-13 will be the dates of our annual conference. The subject of the conference will be "Sola Scriptura". It will be, God willing, a very special conference with great messages on the sufficiency of Scriptures.

ITALY TOUR 2007

We are organizing a tour of Italy which includes our FOCUS 2007 conference. In our next News Update you will receive all the information needed to participate and the cost involved.

COME VISIT ITALY!

Plan to be challenged with great preaching by Dr. MacArthur and other great expositors.

Visit Florence, Perugia, Rome, and much more.

Gain a deeper understanding of our work in a Roman Catholic country.