

# BOLZANO



**Connected  
Committed  
Mobilized!**

December 2007

## **Missing Link from Bolzano**

Good news and bad news. The good first: we are alive! The bad one: We realized at the end of last week that, due to a technical and communication blunder, our letter that should have reached you back in October never made it! We are so immensely sorry!! Please forgive us. We hope we can make up for lost time with this “thick,” but informative and surely uplifting letter.

From the Missing-Link-Letter written on September 29th, 2007:

*Dear Friends!*

*We found it! We finally have a home!! We counted 7 moves before arriving to the goal. Not bad! Two days ago we were able to make a contract for a phone line. Oh, how we long for a way to be in touch with you all!! Never have we felt as isolated as we have in these two months and more moving from place to place with the urgency of finding a nest. What a consuming task. And now what relief! We feel like we can finally sit in our four walls and at last hear your voices or at least write emails freely without internet café pressures. By Thursday the gas line should be opened...good thing as the weather is starting to turn chilly.*

*Simeon and Elisa started school and with it came a brand new challenge. We decided it would be an awesome opportunity for them to attend the German speaking school of Bolzano. Italian is also spoken in their school, of course, and even English is taught a few hours a week. We will continue to explain the uniqueness of the Bolzano culture, but one thing that truly jumps out, as you live here, is that German is an absolute, integral part of the daily life. We know this choice will enable the kids to feel a part of the culture and not be left out of relationships and opportunities. This is not easy though, and we ask you to be in prayer for them and their huge adjustment. We all deeply miss the privileges of Kokomo Christian School and the warmth and love of our Hoosier friends, and the outside of Indiana ones as well! OK,...yes, we all need your prayers!*



*Your prayers are being greatly answered in one more (and not least) area. We shared in our last letter about the death of Thomas, and God's great work in many lives. Just the other day one local believer commented how all of this clearly coincides with our arrival. He added that never before had there been such a wide door opened to the Italian speaking community. Praise God for bringing us here at this crucial time. The evening with the friends of Thomas that we mentioned in our last letter went very well with about 50 of them present. Now we are preparing the next VERY BIG step. Next week, Wednesday evening, we will start a series of five Bible studies. The large number of people we have come in contact with are now invited to know more about our faith. The five meetings will deal with the topic of life and death in encounters with Jesus from the Gospel of Luke. Please pray for these crucial appointments starting on October 3rd and continuing every other Wednesday through November 28th . These meetings will be held in the home of Thomas' parents, Horst and Annalise.*

*Please be reminded that everything you do for us is life into the body of Christ right here in Bolzano. We need you to intercede for us so much. As some had said we were equipped to "land running," but we had not expected this to be quite so fast, exciting, and challenging!*

*We love you greatly. Four big hugs,*

*Elisa, Simeon, Stephanie and Steve*

...And NOW, (December 3rd, 2007), here's the latest:!

Last Wednesday we completed our evangelistic series of meetings. God has blessed in a wonderful way. We counted a **total of 19** unsaved people who came at least once to our meetings. At the last meeting we handed out an evaluation sheet asking each one for some feedback and to let us know if there was an interest in attending a second series of meetings starting again in January. **Each one gave a positive answer!**

We saw special interest and very faithful attendance particularly in six of these guests and here are their names for your Bolzano Prayer Moments: **Maria Lia, Armando, Giorgio, Luca, Fabiano, and Norma**. As we discussed the various passages from the Gospel of Luke it was amazing to see how God was at work in opening eyes and hearts to the saving message of God's grace.

This evening I will be meeting, one on one, for the second time, with Luca. His wife, Antonella, is a believer and it would be such a blessing to see this family be one in Christ. Please pray that God will lead on this path of friendship and witness with Luca. He is a very successful businessman and yet very much looking beyond the lure of wealth and status.

We were invited, as a family, to Luca's home recently and had a great time together. Simmy and Elisa enjoyed playing with their children and are constantly an integral part of our missionary journey and effort. We counted a **total of 43** guests in our home since we moved in on September 15th. Stephanie has been constantly fixing meals and working wonders in our unfinished kitchen and still not totally furnished apartment.

Another good news item: **Our crate**, shipped at the beginning of July, finally got here last week!!! We were so happy to open it. It also brought back sweet memories of our wonderful home in Kokomo and, yes, I had the manly privilege of hugging and comforting Stephanie as she shed a couple of tears. And yes, my eyes got a bit humid too!

Friends, we are still facing all the realities of **adjustment** to totally new and foreign surroundings and culture. South Tyrol, our Bolzano region, is not at all like the rest of Italy. It is a very unique place and we can clearly understand why it is one of the most un-reached areas of Italy. Yet, as we have shared, we can clearly see God at work and His powerful hand in leading us here, in the right place, at the right time.

Friends, one more thing. It's time to wish you a **Merry Christmas** and an amazingly blessed new year. If all goes well, (this time!), you should be receiving this letter soon. It will be just the right time to include Bolzano in your thanksgiving time for the great, huge privilege of reaching the world and sharing the work of Christ with those who don't know Him yet as Savior and Lord.

Again, we **thank you** so much for your heart and passion to help us reach the lost of Bolzano with the saving message of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

For His glory, for Italy, and with our 4 big hugs,

*The Standridge Family*