



# Avanti Italia News

Scandicci, Italy

Newsletter #1

September 2, 2006

Hello, everyone! First of all, I want to say thank you to all of you who are involved in this work, both through financial support and prayer. None of this could happen without you. I just wanted to let you know how things are going as I begin my work in Italy:

I spent two weeks in Searcy, Arkansas, training. It was a great experience. We had classes on evangelism, Catholic doctrine, Romans, the New Testament Church, Church History, Group dynamics, the Holy Spirit and miracles, faith and evidence, and post-modernism. Many of our teachers were the first missionaries to go to Italy right after World War II. It was a great experience to hear their stories and know how the work there has unfolded. One former missionary, Dr. Mitchell, wrote an article about the history of the work there for the Christian Courier a few years back; I included it on my website if you are interested in knowing more about the history of missions in Italy.

I arrived here in Italy on August 29. Our director, Gary Williams, and five of the other workers, Kelly Fann, David Hopper, Matt and Lauren Freels, and Greg Seiders, met me at the airport. As soon as I put my bags in my room, the other workers took me out to one of their favorite pizza places. Afterwards, we stopped for gelato (Italian ice cream), which is amazing!

The Bible School is in a quiet neighborhood in Scandicci, a suburb of Florence, across the street from a park. Across the park are both a modern hospital and an old castle, Torre Galli (the Tower of the Galli family). Now that the jet-lag is beginning to wear off (there is a seven-hour time difference), I am beginning to learn my way around and settle in.

Wednesday morning, I joined the group doing publicity, distributing flyers for the English lessons. I'm looking forward to meeting with the church for the first time tomorrow morning. On Monday, I start language school in downtown Florence. Hopefully, by the next time I send out this newsletter, I will have improved my Italian quite a bit!

I will be sending out this newsletter periodically to let everyone know what is going on. Also, I have a website that will be updated every few days with more details. On the website, you can leave comments and questions. The website is

<http://katyinitaly.blogspot.com/>.

If you want to contact me by mail, by address is:

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Thank you all again for all your encouragement, and please continue to pray for this work.

In Him,  
Katy Cross

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Also, if someone from each church would be willing to receive it and pass it along to rest of the congregation so that I do not have to send a paper copy, it would really help! Please let me know!