



News from Italy

Scandicci, Italy

Newsletter #4

July 2007

Ciao a tutti! (Hello to everyone!) Well, summer is going by pretty fast! I've stayed busy most of the summer teaching students, although as the weather heats up more and more have left on vacation. My mother came to visit me for part of July, and I had a good time showing her around Italy and eating too much gelato (Italian ice cream)!

My big announcement is that I am planning to move to Milan for my second year as an Avanti Italia worker. I've enjoyed my year here in Florence teaching at the Bible school, but I am looking forward to going out and hopefully being of help. I will be working along with Lewis and Tammy Short, American missionaries who have been in Milan since 2000.

Milan is the largest city in Italy with a population of about four million, and is one of the major financial and fashion centers of the world. Since it is in the north of Italy, close to the Swiss border, I will finally have an excuse to wear all the scarves I managed to collect over the past winter, and hopefully see some snow.

The congregation in Milan has about fifty members, of all ages and races. Like most Italian churches, it is quite multicultural with members from, besides Italy, Singapore, the Philippines, Ghana, Albania, France, and China. I have been up to visit several times now, and they are a friendly and welcoming group, and I am looking forward to getting to know them better.

Some of the work I plan to be involved in with the Milan congregation includes doing Bible studies with new Christians, helping with the Women's Bible Study group's weekly meetings, teaching a children's class on Sundays, and organizing activities for the "young

people" (in Italy, anyone under thirty qualifies). In whatever time I have left, I will probably continue to teach some English-using-the-Bible type classes as a way to meet people and get involved in the community.

Lewis and Tammy have found an apartment for me on the west side of the city, not too far from their neighborhood. It's small, but furnished and it will be nice to have my own space after living with so many people here at the Bible school. It's just across the street from the Milan's San Siro soccer stadium, so it might be a little noisy on Sunday evenings during the season. My apartment is one of the attic apartments on the fifth floor, but looking out of my window I am still not to the top of the massive pine tree just outside.

Well, I hope that everyone's summer is going well, and thank you for your continued prayers for the churches here in Italy. Dio vi benedica! (God bless you all!)

Katy





The Brothers and Sisters in Italy

And now, I would like to continue to introduce you to your Christian family in Italy. Denia Qafa is an Albanian woman who has lived in Italy for nearly ten years now. We got to know her much better after she stayed with us for a few weeks after being in a car accident a while back. She was a good guest—when she got bored while recovering from her broken ribs, she helped with the cleaning. Denia works as a nanny for a baby boy here in Florence, but is on vacation right now and is back in Albania spending time with her daughter and two grandchildren who still live there.

Summer 2007:

May 5-6: The CIA (Cristiani in Azioni, Christians in Action) group came to Florence. This group of nine church leaders from around Italy got together to visit, encourage, and work with several congregations, and we enjoyed the time they spent here with us.

May 12: Arrival of Brandon and Kristin Edwards, our newest Avanti Italia workers.

May 27: Ladies' Day at the Milan congregation. The theme was about our blessings and responsibilities as daughters of God. The lessons were in Italian, but translated into Ewe, because more than half of the crowd were Ghanaian. We sang in

Italian, English, and Ewe; I led singing for everything but the Ewe.

June 16: Baby shower for Vida, a Ghanaian member, and her new daughter, Monica.

June 17: Arts Day at the Florence church. Many members of the church in Florence are artists; we met on Sunday evening for a time of fellowship and looked at a display of members' work, and heard a piano/clarinet concert by Luigi and Julie Giordano.

July 11: Birth of Tiziana's twins. Tiziana has been a member of the Florence church for about two years now. Please pray for her as she had a very difficult pregnancy and delivery and is still recovering. The babies, one boy and one girl, are doing well.

Also, we hosted student groups from Freed-Hardeman and Faulkner, as well as the normal flow of guests. I also spent a couple of weeks in July traveling with my mom while she was here visiting. While she was here, we were able to see my new apartment, and I had the chance to introduce her to my new church family in Milan.



Me, Mom, and three of the Milan church members Orazio, Bruna, and Enrica, in front of the Milan church building.