



Impacting ITALY  
through Church Leaders

# ITA News update

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A mandate we cannot set aside

## The work of the ministry

In the letter to the Ephesians the Apostle Paul speaking to the church there reminds them that God-ordained leadership needs to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. In the second letter to Timothy Paul reminds this young pastor to fulfill his ministry. How can a pastor or elder of a church fulfill his duty if he is not adequately prepared? This is why our ministry is so crucial.

### OUR STUDENTS

#### FAITHFUL MEN

God has blessed our ministry with a great number of men that are eager to study God's Word.

The vast majority of the evangelical churches in Italy are led by very faithful men. Most of them have been converted from the Roman Catholic Church. The Gospel was preached to them and by the work of the Holy Spirit they understood and embraced the Gospel message. Many churches were then begun through the excited witness of these men to their family and friends. Eventually a small Bible study started and a small group of believers was formed. Most churches are small and are led by good men with full-time secular jobs, who have been thrust into ministry. They realize that they are not adequately pre-

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pared to teach, but are faithful to the demands that family, secular work and ministry put upon their shoulders. faithful prayers and financial gifts help us train. We are continually humbled as we witness the sacrifices that these men and their families make to participate in our classes. Most of our classes require that these men come for three years for one week at our location in Sicily. Most of these faithful men give up vacation time from their job to come.

We wish you could meet them as they come from many regions in Italy, representing many different churches that are beginning to benefit from the ministry of the Italian Theological Academy.

We need your prayers for wisdom as we counsel them and prepare them academically. Our relationship with the students goes well beyond the hours spent in class, but through phone calls, emails, and visits they are encouraged and prepared for their ministries.

#### OUR CLASSES

As we have just begun our new academic year in February, we are grateful to God for the faithful men that teach in our Academy.

In February we had the privilege of having Pastor Kreloff from Clearwater, Florida teach Expository Preaching. In March, Phil Johnson came from the ministry Grace to You to teach Systematic Theology. As we look forward to the rest of the year we are excited to have many more very qualified men come and teach our courses. This year we have ten one week courses available to our students.

Training these men is a year-round responsibility even though some of them might come only for a few of the one-week classes.

Pray for our full-time staff that continues to train these men for ministry when they return to their churches.

Pray also for our students - over 100 enrolled this year as they minister faithfully in their local churches.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Faithful men need to be trained for ministry
- More than 100 enrolled
- FOCUS is a strategic training event



pared to teach, but are faithful to the demands that family, secular work and ministry put upon their shoulders.

These are the kind of men that God brings to our Academy, and these are the men that your



## AMAZING RESPONSE

Last October we had an overwhelming participation at our annual FOCUS Conference. Over three hundred men and their wives came to listen to the clear preaching of the Word of God.

John MacArthur, Steve Lawson, Tom Pennington and William Standridge addressed the theme of the conference which was "*Sola Fide Sola Gratia*" through the faithful exposition of the Bible.

You would have been moved as we were during our special prayer meeting. We prayed for every region of Italy while those present from each region stood up.

We recognize that it is only by the grace of God that we continue to see fruit and hear the testimonies of the participants as they tell us how this conference is a vital event for their ministries and their churches.

## FOCUS 2010

The preparations for the next conference begin the day after the previous one ends!

This year our theme is "*Solus Christus*." We look forward to the ministry of Alistair Begg, Carey Hardy, Rick Holland and William Standridge.

Pray for these men as they prepare and all the other preparations that go along with hosting a conference.

The FOCUS Conference reaches well beyond the four

days in October when it is held. The books that are given and the downloads of the messages from our website ([www.aurorafocus.org](http://www.aurorafocus.org)) continue to bless many as they desire to fulfill their ministry in the churches all over Italy.

## VERBA VOLANT SCRIPTA MANENT

Many times students in the Italian schools are reminded of these Latin words. Spoken words fly away, but what is written remains. Aurora Mission believes that publishing sound books is of strategic importance for the equipping of the leaders of the churches in Italy.

Most evangelical publishing groups in Italy shy away from doctrinal books that are geared for the preparation of leaders of the churches. These books are needed, but do not have a great market as the believers are few and their leaders even fewer. These books need to be published as a ministry without hope to be able to recuperate funds through sales.

Aurora over the years has published over twenty books and continues to be devoted to this important aspect of our call to prepare men to fulfill the duties of their ministry.

## WE NEED YOU

God is continually increasing the opportunities for our ministry. We carefully evaluate every need and every expense we incur to faithfully use the funds that God has entrusted through the donations we receive. We realize that it is God that opens the doors for ministry and provides the necessary funds.

We need to increase the number of people that pray for our ministry and the number of people that support us financially. If you or your church would like us to present the ministry we would be glad to come share what the Lord is doing in Italy.

**GOD continues to bless and give more opportunities to train men so they can faithfully do the work of the ministry. We need you to faithfully pray and give as the Lord guides you!**



## THE NEW CONSTRUCTION

**The plans for the new classroom and kitchen and dining room continue to move forward. The necessary permits are being secured.**

In our last newsletter we asked you to pray that God would help us address this important need for Academy. As we get closer to the summer months we realize that this is the right season to begin construction and have the work completed before the bad weather starts again.

**We are grateful for the donations we have received, but we are still in need of about \$70,000.00. We realize that these are difficult financial times for many and we know that it is God that needs to provide the necessary funds. We are asking you to pray and ask God how He would lead you to be involved in this very important and needed project for the Italian Theological Academy.**