

Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy**...I THOUGHT I KNEW A LOT ABOUT THE BIBLE...**

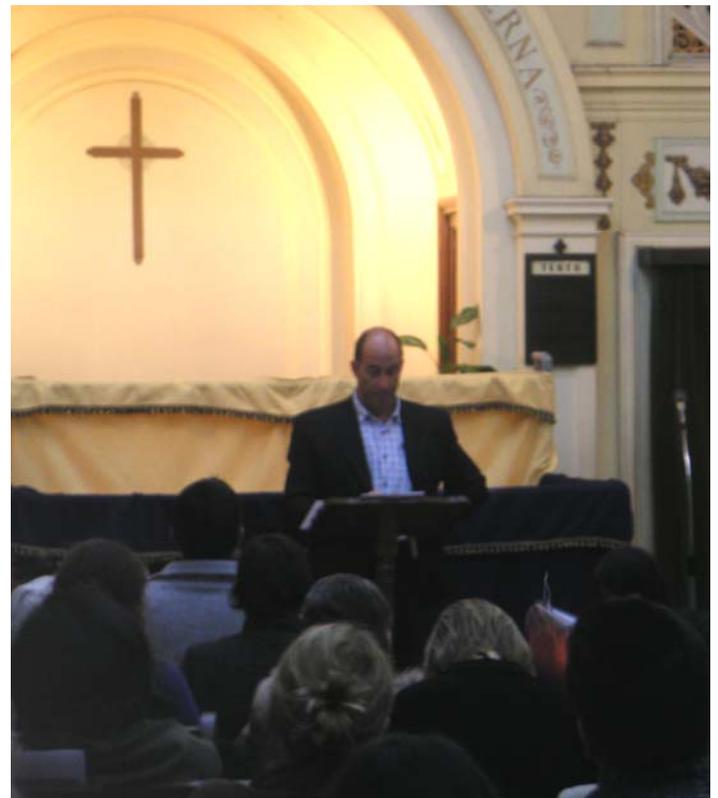
We cannot believe a year already elapsed from the start of our first Bible Study in Rome with the magnificent 7. The group has now grown to 23 though some of the attendees are resisting the numerical growth for the sake of intimacy. On 05/05/06 we had a year anniversary celebration and listened to the reflections from the group. Here are some of the comments: "I finally learned how to pray; no longer with repetitive empty words". Another "Coming to the study makes me feel, at peace, joyous and loved". My favorite came from an 80 year old professor often interviewed in television for his expertise: "I came to the study thinking I had a good knowledge of the Bible, only to realize how ignorant I really am". Many other comments were made as a tribute to Jane and me, and I have to confess, they felt like fresh water on a parched tongue because of the bruising we have endured. Just to mention one of the recent accusations, voices started to circulate stating that Jane and I are living together, but are not married! Wedding pictures and ring inscriptions put the rumor at rest.



LINED UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THE 1ST YEAR BIBLE STUDY ANNIVERSARY

However, the weight of the cross got heavier and heavier...: "Lord we are persecuted and criticized, Marco is still suffering in a shame based school environment, cost of living is crippling us.... is this what you intended for our family? Is it all worth it?" Then I am reminded to put everything in the right perspective. Steven's example came to mind: the first Christian martyr had the strength of forgiving his executors because he knew about their **ignorance**. You and I have been blessed with the Light and are to walk in it not with a condescending attitude,

but an understanding one. Many around us are still in the dark, thus do what they do. Christ reminds me that I am to love the unlovable less I show that I know nothing about His nature nor His teachings and therefore have no platform for ministry anywhere. Developing a compassionate heart (like His) for the arrogant, stubborn, selfish, rude people of Rome is still my biggest challenge. I think this afflicts all of us no matter where we live. We have been given mercy, we ought to show mercy. The other day I was driving to an exclusive Hotel for a follow up appointment and an impatient scooter was honking behind me though he had room to pass. Once at the intersection (which incidentally was the one in front of my destination in Via Veneto), the rider came along the side of the car and yelled: "why don't you get off the road", to which I replied "why don't you get lost". He then "invited me" to get out of the car (oh boy...I would have loved to....), but I told him I had no time to waste with an imbecile like him. By this time we got the attention of the pedestrians since our decibels got higher. A taxi pulled up and a fellow, like the one I was to meet, came out and caught the tail end of the scene. Conviction set in"Peppo, here you are yelling to this guy on the scooter and in a few minutes you want to talk about.... the love of



PREACHING ON A SUNDAY SERVICE

Christ...?" Now that you know you are investing in a yeller, so long for your financial support...!!! Many of us need to check on our behavior 24/7: out of season as well as in season, in the closet as in the open, in our thought life as in our actions. He longs for that sanctification in us and is ready to aid us if we truly **desire it**.

LATEST HAPPENINGS:

-With the premiere of the Da Vinci Code I

was asked to MC an evening with an Art History Professor and a Church History expert who is also a recent graduate from Dallas Seminary. He was trying to stimulate some interest in the community in order



MONITORING THE "DA VINCI" PRESENTATION

to start a core group for a potential new church in Rome.

-For those who did not receive the email, I would like to narrate a blessed event- fruit of your prayers. A few months ago I mentioned the "Wednesday club" (a lunch gathering of five influential nobles) and my desire to see that club transformed to a Bible Study gathering. So two months ago I started a new men's Bible Study hoping to involve some of these 5. After three meetings one of them (the least likely I thought would show up) came. He was very attentive and at the end he mentioned that something has been drawing him lately towards God to the point that he bought a Bible and was now there with us. On his second meeting he was intrigued by the concept of a **personal relationship** with Christ and desirous to start one. I told him it would have been a

privilege and an honor for the other three of us to witness his profession of faith and he humbly bowed to pray out loud receiving Christ as Lord and Savior. Praise God...once more He is proving that we should not have preconceived ideas on who is "most likely or least likely" fit for the kingdom.

Jane is getting to know the wives of the Wed Club



MOM GOES FOR THE DISTANCE (5K) SON GOES FOR THE SPRINT (4X 100 RELAY)



members and is continuing to disciple Helen (the 18 yrs old HS student) who is eager to learn more about God and how to communicate it to others. Marco was invited last Wed. to a school party that started at 22:30.....that's not just Italian...it is preposterous (he did not get to go) and is surrounded by 14 yrs old that drive special mini cars...!!!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- To secure new housing by mid June
- For a final decision on Marco's schooling
- For the remainder of the Wed. club members to get involved in the Study and a walk with Christ

We Love you Peppo and Jane

Peppo & Jane Biscarini

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