

Peppo and Jane Biscarini serving in Italy

I am ready to relinquish control.....Monica

Mens' group :

We should have done this mid summer, we waited instead for the cold and rainy season to spend one night on Max's sail boat.... This was the first bonding



Leadership gathering for R&R

"exercise" we had with the men's group. We fixed dinner on the boat, had an intimate time of sharing and meditation on the Word, went to bed at 1AM got up at 5:15 to go spearfishing (occasionally I still fish more than men..). Max confessed he had never done anything like this mid week, but absolutely loved it!

Jane has been cooking and serving food, once a week, to the poor at a special cafeteria in Isabella's school. I invited the men's group to go and assist. We had mixed emotions after serving. Most of the people had a demanding attitude as if all of this was owed to them. Few said "thanks", some asked for seconds and did not even finished what was in their plates. I have to confess my instinct was to give them a lecture on "thanks-giving", but I had to bite my tongue since we were there as guests who came to serve..... I did however, ask them to bow their heads in order to bless the food. This backfired because "such a thing was never done before and we want to make sure none of the poor would get offended...." said the head of the

catholic organization that handles the project. We have gone too far in Italy...in the name of tolerance we became speechless! I do not think that is what Jesus intended in Luke 9:60 *Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and **proclaim** the kingdom of God."*

Michael Smith came to Naples this fall for his first Italian tour. Jane and I shared this experience with Steve and Fabrizio (leadership). We had the chance to meet Michael and his family backstage. Nice, humble, contemplative fellow.

Michael Smith's first tour in Italy

3 wks ago, we had the privilege of leading **Monica**, one of the people in our Sun-



days' group, to the Lord. She confessed her obsession to be in control of her life mainly out of mistrust for anyone else including God. She finally came to the point of relinquishing her heart to His control given that she is overwhelmed by the weight she has been carrying on her shoulder. How many of us are still "lords" of our lives and thus carry unnecessary weights during the race??? Do we humbly submit or are we humbly submitted?

I was just contemplating with Jane how blessed we have been these past 40 months. Some of the initiative of private catholic schools have been to involve parents in prayer groups and typically 4 or 5 women show up representing school bodies of 800

to 1200 kids.... The other night I attended a catechesis for adults in the parish of our area, 11 people were present out of 7,000 people that



live in the immediate vicinity.

We feel ashamed as we have been complaining about our

*White men can jump...!
Marco (L) in action*

Jane's corner:

vecchietti Bible study group.

We have been saying how some need a course in etiquette: "do not interrupt, do not give a monologue just to impress others, do not rush to the food as soon as the study is over, do not pile a mountain of food on your plate when there are others behind that would like some too, etc..

"We complain when they are late and now they come too early. Today we had 22 attendees (6 were missing) all sitting in a circle and I realized that we are so blessed to have them. They are hearing God's word here and defending our studies among their peers that accuse them of joining a cult. We have excellent discussions and Peppo is very good with them and knows how to answer their challenging questions. How many missionaries would love to have this? Thanks be to God for using us in this way; may He forgive us for our attitude.

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A new addition to the family...



I now have an opportunity to start a Bi-

ble study with a gal who came to our Thanksgiving event. She was having a study at her home last year with nuns from the school, but only 2-3 would show and it wasn't very stimulating. What is lacking in this culture is stimulating teaching mixed with fun, thus people are uninterested or burned out.

Finally Peppo gave in and for Isabella 's BD we got her a beagle....*Snoopy*. She is quite a handful. Marco was in Italy twice for his volleyball tournaments. He is the youngest in the varsity team. We saw him during these two games and had a chance to spoil the team (who was living on pizza) to some good Italian food. They loved it and thought Peppo was a very big, cool, dude (Marco was very proud)!

Prayer requests:

- We are moving forwards with negotiations to start a new fellowship in an Anglican church near the Spanish steps. Pray for wisdom as we want to start in the right setting.

- We have the opportunity of reaching out to youth and are planning to assemble a team to train and direct in this much needed effort

We miss you and love you all.

Beato Natale a tutti.

Peppo & Jane

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