



Church Planting in Trieste, Italy September 2007

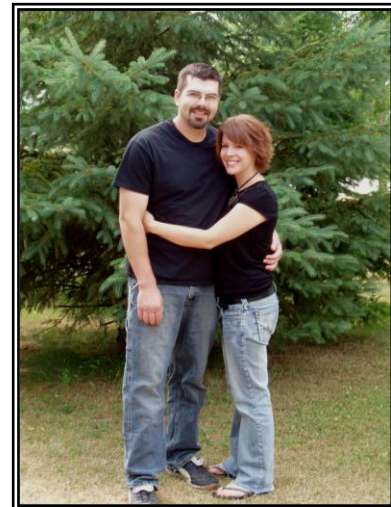
Dear Family & Friends,

Hello! Hope this letter finds you all doing well. Things are good here, summer's about over and we're preparing for the long winter ahead! Sarah can't wait! (*Very funny*, she says.)

Sarah and I have been attending Redeemer Evangelical Free Church for about a year. We recently moved into the apartment complex behind our church, not only to be (much!) closer, but also as a ministry opportunity. We are partnering with our church in reaching out to the surrounding community, and hope to be able to share God's love with our neighbors.

In moving from Waukesha, we were amazed at how much we had accumulated in the past 6 years of marriage! This transition also gave us a chance to reflect on God's faithfulness throughout our relationship, and we are so excited about what He's going to do in our future.

Right now, I'm still working at the small machine shop where I've been for the last eight years. It's been a great job and a real blessing from the Lord. Sarah graduated with her Fine Arts degree in art and alternative education in May. She just finished her first week, and is excited about teaching at a small residential treatment center for girls.



In February, I got the opportunity to go to Trieste, Italy with Caleb Klontz, a friend from New Tribes Bible Institute. The Klontz family will be moving to Trieste within the year to reach the Italian people with the Gospel. The purpose of our trip was to gather more information about living in Italy, to encourage the missionaries already there, and fellowship with the believers. It turned out to be much more.

While Sarah and I have always been interested in foreign missions, serving in Italy never crossed our minds. However, as I talked with people, the Lord began to work on my heart. One man in particular, named Elio, asked if we would be willing to come and help. A question like that makes you think... and PRAY!

After I got back and talked with Sarah, we began praying about serving as missionaries in Trieste. The Lord has continually opened doors, including the very strong possibility of a teaching job for Sarah in Trieste next year. Sarah's ability to work greatly reduces the amount of support we need to raise.

Lord willing, we will be moving to Trieste in August 2008. I will be able to assist with the church full-time, helping wherever I'm needed. Both Sarah and I will also be building relationships in the community, using our gifts and talents as the Lord provides opportunity, and ultimately sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

There's a lot to do this next year! As we look at different mission agencies, please **pray** that the Lord gives us wisdom and discernment. Even with Sarah working, we anticipate the need for roughly an additional \$1500/month, plus our outgoing fund. The cost of living in Italy is high, especially with the current exchange rate. We're trusting the Lord and are excited to see His provision.

We would love for all of you to partner with us in prayer! Please **pray** for the people of Italy, and for growth in the Trieste church. In addition to praying for the steps *we* need to take, please lift up our future co-workers, the Klontz Family, as they prepare to go. Also **pray** for the missionaries already working there, Matt & Barbara Schvaneveldt (below, with the church).



Sarah and I are really excited about what God is doing. Thank you for sharing in this with us. Please feel free to check out www.triesteforchrist.com. If you speak Italian ☺, or would like to see more pictures from the church, visit www.triestevangelica.com.

In Christ,

Ryan & Sarah



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