

# A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

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**Mission Agency:**

Baptist Mid-Missions

7749 Webster Road

P.O. Box 308011

Cleveland, OH 44130 - 8011

[www.bmm.org](http://www.bmm.org)



**Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. (Ps. 37:4-5 ESV)**

*Dear praying friends,*

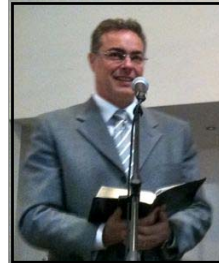
What a comfort it is to see that God keeps his word through the ages! Though we will not know with certainty what God's will is for our lives in his grand scheme, we can trust Him. When Jesus promises that He will build His church, we can be certain that the church will be built. It may not look like what we expect, but it will be better than we expect.

On Sunday, October 9th 2011, after thirty-five years from the founding of Centro Evangelico Battista, we celebrated the installation of our first Italian pastor: Lucio Stanisci.

Jon had the privilege of translating the installation message for Lucio's sending pastor and mentor, John MacArthur. (see picture) What a blessing to see the investment that godly men have made in Lucio's life!

Though it has not yet changed our day-by-day activities, it is a momentous shift that will affect the way we do ministry in

central Italy. Until now it has been the American missionaries primarily investing and communicating truth and training members to serve.



Now we take a step back as partners with an Italian leader, fully trained and capable, as together we look ahead to reaching central Italy with the Gospel, through training of members, radio, television and church planting.

This vision is growing, as we seek to evangelize Perugia, the largest and most influential city in the region. Our prayer meetings have been a celebration of God's answered prayers regarding an Italian pastor, and have now almost naturally shifted to praying for reaching the cities of Umbria.

Recently, as part of our

youth retreat, we took our youth on a prayer walk of Assisi, which lies across the valley from Perugia, where more than 50,000 people live without a single Gospel witness. One of the remarkable signs of spiritual darkness in the town is a roman temple dedicated to Minerva that now serves as a catholic church. True to form, they did not even bother putting a crucifix in the church. The center stage, instead, is occupied by a statue of Mary. (Check out [www.jonnywhitman.com](http://www.jonnywhitman.com) for pictures)

Last week we helped host a week-long Bible conference held here in Perugia. Over two hundred people from all over Italy attended. Our church provided some of the preaching (Lucio) and led the worship times. The topic was "Soli Deo Gloria", the cry of the reformation. Pray that reformation would truly come to Italy!

*Gratefully*

*your partners for Italy,*

*Jonathan, Melodee and Noah*

## SPECIAL PRAYER

1. Pray for our furlough plans to solidify from late spring to mid-fall 2012.
2. Pray for Melodee's residence papers and our legal work status.
3. Pray for Assisi and other like cities, where there are no evangelical churches.
4. Pray for Lucio and the rest of our pastoral staff: that the transition can go well.
5. Pray for daily protection in our lives as we often deal with a spiritually hostile environment.
6. Pray for wisdom and integrity in all our choices.
7. Pray for the youth ministry as we evangelize and shepherd young people who are often lone witnesses in their schools and families, in an increasingly immoral world.