



MONAHAN NEWS

Rev. Tim and Marcia Monahan

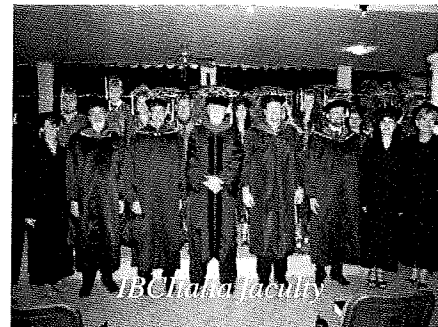
Via Cilea 46
81030 Castel Volturno CE
Italy

timmonahan50@gmail.com
marcia_monahan@hotmail.com
September 2010

Filling the Void

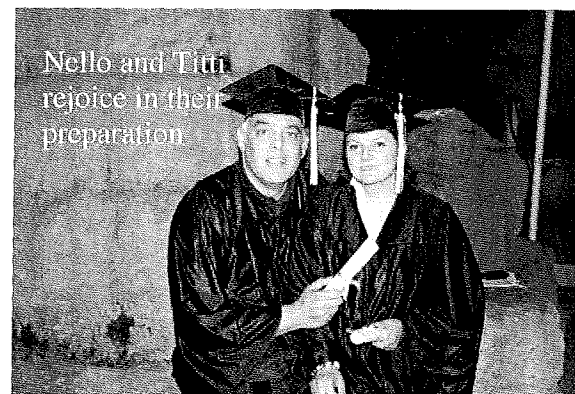
Christianity in Western Europe is empty and has been drained by nominalism and anti-intellectualism. Western Europeans are confused, and the typical European defines himself or herself as a Christian because of nationality, family, cultural ties and tradition.

Italian Christians have a tendency to blame spiritual opposition to the lack of growth and indifference. Instead of spiritual opposition, one major problem is that the churches have not responded to the cultural changes around them. While the continent has emphasized the importance of education and scientific investigation, the churches in Italy have buried their heads in the sand. There is a prevalent attitude that views theological education and academic preparation with skepticism.



This past year I taught Old Testament Survey in a church in southern Italy. The seminary on the Pentateuch lasted 10 hours and I handed out extensive notes. I used PowerPoint and the latest technology in order to communicate effectively. As the class broke one Saturday evening, I asked one student if he was going to study for the sermon he would preach on Sunday. He replied that he did not need to study for his sermons because he would be led by the Holy Spirit. I asked myself why he bothered to take my classes if the Holy Spirit leads this way.

IBCItalia is trying to fill a void that exists in the Italian church. Our emphasis is on teaching apologetics and leadership development. Our goal is to clarify direction and eliminate the confusion. We strive for academic preparation in place of anti-intellectualism. Nominalism is replaced by commitment to discipleship.



This year, I will be teaching New Testament Greek, Old Testament Survey, Theology, and Methods of Teaching.

Marcia will teach women's studies. Pray for us and for the faculty and students, like Nello and Titti, at *IBCItalia*.

Istituto Biblico Cristiano Italia

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