

Relief in Italy: Puppets Used to Share Gospel with Earthquake Survivors

Italian Calvary Chapels are reaching out to victims of the earthquake that struck on April 6, 2009. It claimed nearly 300 lives and left almost 45,000 homeless. Loading donations of food, clothing, and Bibles that totaled 3,500 pounds, they departed to minister at the epicenter in L'Aquila. After depositing the donations, they journeyed to several "tent cities" to share a puppet show that tells the Gospel message with those whose homes had been destroyed. Priests and nuns stopped to watch. Diego, a young priest, approached Craig Quam, the CC pastor from Montebelluna, Italy.

"That was wonderful!" Diego exclaimed. "I noticed all the songs were about the Lord. What parish do you come from?" It was explained that they came from an evangelical church. The priest's countenance quickly changed at this revelation.

Craig explained, "Diego, we didn't come here to share about the evangelical church or to speak against the Catholic Church. We simply came to share the love of Jesus with these people." Diego listened as Craig continued. "It wasn't the Protestant, Catholic,

or Orthodox Church that saved my life, but rather having a personal relationship with Christ—Who is the way, the truth, and the life." Diego continued to converse with team members while asking questions. The puppet show allowed the team to share their hope in Christ not only with the children, but also with their parents and relief workers.

The team gave out New Testaments and shared the Gospel as opportunities opened. The next day, they presented the puppet show at three more emergency camps with similar opportunities to share the Good News. The new Italian Calvary Chapel Bible College in Montebelluna cancelled their classes for the week to participate. Plans are being made to continue ministry outreach in the area throughout the summer and fall. ☺

Italian Calvary Chapel Relief

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Students from CCBC Italy put on a puppet show to share Christ's love with children who lost their homes.



CC Pastors Jim Stewart, left, and Craig Quam tell Father Diego how they found new life in Jesus Christ.

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