

Reports from Limonta, Torino and Bergamo Italy

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Limonta Italy

With one month so quickly behind us in Italy it is worthwhile to reflect a little and have a clear view of our situation. This first month has brought a most encouraging result in terms of new members and potential new members and the future looms extremely bright.

On the whole we were all a little surprised by the Italians and it took us a while to adjust to such a free and heartistic race of people. Italian mentality is so vastly different from any other in Europe.

Each person who passes through the door of our center is like a jewel to Heavenly Father, precious and fragile. The emphasis must be on developing a relationship whereby the guests can feel the desire to not just express themselves externally, but to internally unburden themselves and free themselves from Satan's chains. We must put ourselves in the position of a true parent, giving our time and our love to each and every person.

Good people are coming from all centers. Most centers have young members living with them and this can be most inspiring. A center only grows as fast as the youngest member and special attention must be given to the fruits of our work. There is no value in working hard and finding many new children if within a few weeks they leave again.

The fundraising condition was fulfilled by every center and proved to be an invaluable experience. Last weekend the fundraising teams met with Mr. Leonhardtberger in Limonta; originally four teams of eight they are now two teams of 16 with Hubert Huber and Owind Haugen as the two leaders. During this special condition for Yankee Stadium many brothers and sisters slept for two weeks in their bus or by the roadside, or were given garages or sometimes even houses to use. The experiences and situations Heavenly Father puts us in are countless.

Fundraising for the Choir was sometimes different in strategy; often they would sing a few songs in a bar and then go around with an empty hat!

Italy prepares for yet another election; the importance of our work here becomes more apparent. We must prepare ourselves to work on all different levels at the same time so our growth must not just be in numbers but also in maneuverability, flexibility and impact. In this way there are plans for the Choir to grow to become 44 and then in case of need to be split into two.

Limonta:
by Luciano Fenoli

There are many differences between our campaign in Italy and all other campaigns we have had in Europe. Italy is like a second Korea! There are many connections which express this similarity. First, the hearts of the Italians are so warm; even the most coldhearted person in the world is moved. Second, the young people are very sensitive and sincere in their desire to build a new society centered on pure love. Third, their inner attitude to look for truth and true purpose in life is very serious.

The youth of this nation are searching for true family life, so even Communists are easy to move to our side because they too have a special heart which is close to God. I could see this through the results in Limonta where I am now teaching. In the training course itself we build a very close relationship to the guests in a two-day workshop which continues for five more days if the guests have more time. We can relate to each other like in God's true family. In the morning, as in all training-centers all over the world, the co-ordinators wake up the guests, but in Limonta it often happens that our guests wake us up at 5:30 for morning sports!

During the two-day workshop the guests open up very much, so that we can see how to help them in furthering their understanding of the principles. The people are all very good so we have realized a good result during this first month of our campaign in Italy.

by Walter Patzl

The time we have spent here in the training center in Limonta has brought many experiences. We are here in different missions so we can already experience Father's heart in many different ways. The training center is directly on Lake Como and from the surroundings it is ideal for all students to come here to hear about God's plan in our time and to become His children.

The most exciting time which we always look forward to is the weekend, because then the house becomes really alive. Sometimes we have 50 students here who try to find new hope and new life. We realize how each one of us here in the center can show them a different aspect of God's personality by sharing with them many deep experiences. On Sunday when the weekend is finishing, everybody is looking forward to see how many of the "bambinies" are truly touched by the Principle, but also by the experience that each guest had. Everyone here is deeply interested to bring each guest back to our Heavenly Father.

The family here and the team became one unit in a relatively short time and with this foundation we can work harmoniously together and bring great victory which will spread throughout Italy.

Torino:

by Norbert Thiel

When we arrived in Torino we were welcomed with much love by the four local brothers and sisters. They had already been working several months in order to finance and prepare the new center. Just on the day of our arrival they finished their work. Much love is expressed in the hard work they did.

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freedom and true love). Afterwards we spoke about Limonta, and he said: "No, I cannot go because I can lose my job." But then I remembered the words of Mr. Corley: "Go, and speak with this boy."

We spoke again about Rev. Moon, how he liked to go to the mountains when he was young, to pray and enjoy beauty. He was so touched when he could feel a connection between Rev. Moon and himself. This talk brought the decision to go to Limonta. Two days later he came back, so shining and happy, inspiring everybody. He said that he knew everything about the principle. He wrote all the lectures in a notebook and studied everything. It was 11:00. At 12 o'clock he did not want to go home. Mr. Corley showed him many pictures of our family, and he was so happy to see the joy and love expressed in every picture. Helena told him to go to the 7-day workshop. The next day he was very nervous; he could feel the battle, at the same time the urgency to get money. He decided that the next day he would go. During the day we did not hear any news about him, but at 8 o'clock he was there with his suitcase, a happy face, looking at everyone, trying to say: "I am here." We could feel the day of battle behind his face.

After seven days Domenico is living in our family, bringing each day many people to the center who like to go to Limonta. He looks at each one of us as if to say, "Thank you, because you came to this country, and I can stay with you."

Bergamo:

by Philip Jones

"Citizens of Bergamo, as a member of the IOWC I wish to thank you for your warm hospitality and would like to invite you to our center in Bergamo Via G. Cesare 23A where you will be warmly received.... "

This was what the people of Bergamo were greeted with when they tuned into RBO last Friday night at 8:00 p.m.

I was invited to see the radio station by a boy who came to our center and who works for the radio in his spare time. After meeting the staff of the radio station and being shown around they invited me to speak. At first, I was a little apprehensive because I had never spoken on radio before but I realized this was a challenge from Heavenly Father and remembered our motto for Italy, "Go over." So I agreed and after one Italian reading of our pamphlet I spoke in English while another translated.