

A PROJECT FOR ROME, A VISION FOR ITALY

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ROME, CAPUT MUNDI

Rome is known as Caput Mundi (Capital of the world), la Città Eterna (The Eternal City), Limen Apostolorum (Threshold of the Apostles), the city of the seven hills or simply l'Urbe (The City). Ancient Rome was a major center of Western civilization, and Rome is still the seat of the Roman Catholic Church which controls the Vatican City as its sovereign territory, an enclave of Rome.



Today, Rome is modern and cosmopolitan with more than 2.7 million residents. The metropolitan area has a population of about 4 million. It is the third most-visited tourist destination in the EU and a city of cultural and political importance. It hosts the head offices of the vast majority of the major Italian companies, as well as the headquarters of three of the world's 100 largest companies.

Tourism is inevitably one of Rome's chief industries, with numerous notable museums. Rome is also the hub of the Italian film industry, thanks to the Cinecittà studios. The city is also a center for banking as well as electronics and aerospace industries. Numerous international headquarters, university campuses, government ministries, conference centers, sports venues and museums are located in Rome's principal business districts.

Rome exercises three main influences on the whole of Italy in the areas of politics, media, and cultural institutions. With a courageous Gospel witness in the city, there is potential to have a Gospel transformative influence on the ethos of the whole country.

ROME, THE VATICAN AND GOSPEL WITNESS

As a city, Rome has unique features. The city is the capital of two states: Italy and the Vatican. It is also the major center of the Roman Catholic Church which has a universal outlook and project. Being in Rome means to confront and being confronted with the system of Roman Catholicism, i.e. a combination of truth and error, Bible and tradition, faith and superstition, folk religion and highly sophisticated theology, spiritual and material interests.

In Rome the power of Roman Catholicism is evident everywhere. At times it is intimidating. It blends cultural, economic, political dimensions. The lives of the majority of people are connected with it and depend on it because a high percentage of the city economy is run by the Vatican. So Gospel witness has to deal with this powerful system and cannot be superficial in its analysis and vision.



Traditionally, the Roman Catholic Church in Rome has fought against the spread of the Gospel. Because of the presence of the pope, the idea was to build a “heresy-free zone” around the major institutions of the church. Since 1870 Protestant churches have been planted. Unfortunately, most of them are now liberal in their theology and with very little Gospel impact. After the Second World War, Evangelical churches have been planted mainly in the outskirts of the city. The “heresy-free zone” was still unconsciously accepted by Evangelicals. Another reason for leaving the city center out was the cultural challenge of the witness that they were not willing to take. So it was better for them to be in a sort of “ghetto”.

It is now time radically to revisit this approach and to relaunch the vision for a Reformed Church in Rome. It is now time to reclaim Rome for the Gospel in spite of the powers which dominate it. It is also time for Italy to have a church in the Capital city which may have symbolic significance for the whole of the country. It will be a living message that the Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation, encouraging Italian churches to live out the Good news and modeling for them a Gospel-centered and outward looking church. Moreover, a Reformed Church in Rome will be a benefit for the international Evangelical community in their dealings with Roman Catholicism. Roman Catholicism has become a matter of theological confusion amongst Evangelicals and the project will help them to understand it and to relate to it in the long run.

OUR PROJECT FOR ROME

The Evangelical Church Breccia di Roma exists to glorify God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, living the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a community of disciples and serving kingly, priestly and prophetically the city of Rome (and through it the nation of Italy) so that the Word of God may have a breakthrough to transform it.

The final goal is ... the glory of God

The propelling centre is ... the gospel of Jesus Christ

The community envisaged is ... a church of disciples

The scopes of action are ...

- ... A kingly service to encourage responsibility
- ... A priestly service to bless the neighbour and the city
- ... A prophetic service to proclaim the Word of God

The 'glocal' borders are ... the city of Rome and Italy

The final hope is ... the transformation of the city according to the Gospel

Breccia (English: breach) is used in the Bible (especially the OT) to indicate the opening of a door in a city fortress. We pray that God will be pleased to open a significant door in this needy town, allowing the gospel to go forth (Colossians 4:2-4). It also evokes the event in Italian history (20th September 1870) when the Italian army made a "breach" in the city walls (governed at the time by the pope) and reduced the pontifical state to its present-day dimensions. We pray that God will be pleased to use the church to confront the powers of the city with the claims of the gospel.

Come and visit us!

Services – in Italian – on Sundays – h 17.30
[via IV novembre 108](#) (close to Piazza Venezia)
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