



Preparing to serve in small groups and leadership development in Italy

FAST FACTS

Birthdays Jamie (1/31),
Gayle (11/03)

Anniversary (9/29/84)

Family Daniel (2/08),
Kaylene (3/20), Ceciley (8/30)

Education Jamie: B.S. in
business administration, 1998,
Troy University, Troy, Alabama;
anticipated M.A. in global and
contextual studies from Bethel
Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gayle: B.S. in retail merchandising
with a minor in business
administration, 1985, the University
of Minnesota, St. Paul

Appointed November 2007

Home Church Cornerstone
Community Church, La Crosse,
Wisconsin

PERSONAL MINISTRY PROFILE



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Jamie & Gayle Pund

Jamie and Gayle Pund anticipate serving in Italy facilitating and training small groups and leaders to serve the Italian churches.

Up until 14 years ago, Jamie and Gayle were nominal Christians, attending church occasionally on major holidays, choosing to focus on climbing the corporate ladder. They didn't have time for God and Sundays were reserved for sleeping in and reading the paper. All that changed in 1993 when they were invited to a small group Bible study and were introduced to Jesus Christ. They were encouraged to pursue a personal relationship with Him through discipleship, study of the Word and prayer. This experience radically transformed their hearts and lives. They then helped establish Cornerstone Community Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in 1996. They trained extensively in leadership and small groups ministry.

Jamie anticipates partnering with other WorldVenture missionaries in Naples, Italy, facilitating small groups and training small group leaders. Gayle will use her gift of hospitality to provide a comfortable, welcoming place for seekers to learn the truth of the Bible. She is also hoping to use her experience as a dance instructor to minister to the youth in the church and to do outreach.

While most of Italy's 57 million people would consider themselves Catholic in culture, they are cynical about the church, basing their faith on traditions and superstitions. Vast areas of Italy are still virtually untouched by the gospel and the evangelical church makes up less than 1 percent of the population. Islam is the fastest growing religion followed by Jehovah Witnesses. People living in the Naples area, although still full of superstitions, have become more open to the gospel in recent years.

MINISTRY-AT-A-GLANCE

Anticipated Ministry Focus Small group facilitators/small group leadership development.

The People Minister in Varcaturò, an area just north of Naples, which has a diverse population of Neapolitans, English-speaking African immigrants, and others of diverse European ethnicity.

Ministry Experience Jamie and Gayle served as life-group leaders at Cornerstone Community Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for six years before feeling called to the mission field. God opened the door for them to spend three years at The Old Mill Camp, near Naples, serving in all aspects of camp ministry. They believe God used this time to prepare them for lifelong service in Italy, using their passion for small group development.

Prayer Focus To serve humbly and obediently, mastering the language

**THE VISION OF
WORLDVENTURE**

*We see people
of all nations
transformed
by Jesus Christ
through
partnership
with His church*

quickly...for their two daughters to adjust to living on the mission field and for their son to continue to follow Jesus while adjusting to college life and away from immediate family.

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Known for its “boot” shape, the peninsular country of Italy is about the size of Arizona, including the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. The Apennine Mountains stretch nearly the entire length of the country, covering one-third of the land. Located between the Apennines and the Italian Alps, is a rich and modern agricultural region called the Po Valley. This broad plain is also Italy’s most densely populated area. Situated in the heart of the Mediterranean region, Italy’s climate is sunny and dry for most of the year. Winters are typically cloudy and rainy, with snow in the mountain areas.

Life in Italy pulses with color and animation. Centrally located, the capital city of Rome can be considered a dividing point between two distinct areas: the north, Italy’s fast-paced economic heartland, and the south, where family comes before business and life moves at a much slower pace. Due to this difference, southern Italy is a more religious area. Many Italians, while traditionally Roman Catholic, claim to have no personal faith at all.

**ITALY**

Population: 58.1 million

Languages: Italian (official), German

Major Religion: Roman Catholicism

Date Entered by

WorldVenture: 1947

Number of WorldVenture

Workers: 16

Location of WorldVenture

Work: Naples, Rome, Milan



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