

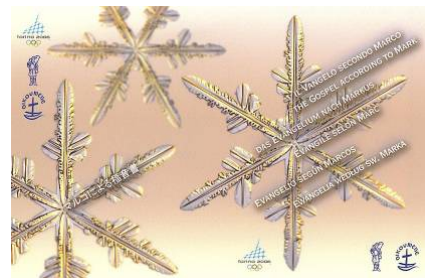
LATEST NEWS # 339, February 08, 2006

The following news concerns Italy.

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http://biblesociety.org/latestnews/index_latestnews.html

Gospel of Mark for Winter Olympics in Turin

ITALY — As athletes from 85 countries gather in Turin for the 20th Winter Olympic Games, the Bible Society in Italy is preparing for a large-scale Scripture distribution effort through local churches.



From the moment the Games officially open on February 10, volunteers from churches in Turin and the surrounding area will begin distributing a special seven-language edition of the Gospel of Mark to spectators, athletes, volunteers (who alone number 20,000) and local Christians. 50,000 copies containing the text in Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, Polish and Japanese have been printed for this project, which follows in the footsteps of the distribution of 200,000 copies of the Gospel of Luke to mark the Millennium (see *World Report* 332/2).

The Bible Society's initiative has the full support of the Roman Catholic, Waldensian and Orthodox Churches. Indeed, it is being jointly coordinated by General Secretary Dr Valdo Bertalot and Father Carlo Mazza, the Vatican's Director for Sport and Leisure. The Italian Olympic Committee attended an audience with Pope Benedict XVI in December at which Father Mazza presented him with a copy of the special Gospel of Mark.

And in a further indication of the good relationship between the United Bible Societies and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, January 25 saw Dr Bertalot participate, in the presence of the Pope, in the closing service of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. (238 words – ITALY.08.02.06)

Photo (Bible Society in Italy)

ITA06DJ-14: front and back cover of the special Gospel of Mark prepared for the Winter Olympic Games in February 2006 by the Bible Society of Italy.

For further information please contact amathewson@ubs-wsc.org

Alternatively, write to:

**Andrew Mathewson,
UBS Editor
UBS World Center
Reading Bridge House
Reading
RG1 8PJ
England**