



# Reaching Lugano

**Steve & Samantha Padilla**  
Regional Missionaries to Switzerland

## 2026: An Exciting Start!

In this first part of the year, God has greatly blessed and enriched us. We have continued sowing and praying for our city. God also allowed us to visit the United States for the first time, where we were able to visit churches and Christian schools, and connect with leaders and pastors.

### JANUARY

We started the year with services, Bible studies, and forums.

In late January, we ministered at a church in **Turin, Italy**, during their **Missions Service**. It was a great opportunity to connect with this community and share the vision for Lugano and Switzerland.



### FEBRUARY

On February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our **Second Anniversary**. Rev. Angelo Di Bernardo (Superintendent of UPC Italy) was the guest speaker. Saints from other churches in Northern Italy and Switzerland also came to support us.

We thank God for His faithfulness: **a young man from Italy received the Holy Ghost** at the end of Saturday's service. This is a significant milestone, as he is the first person to receive the Holy Ghost in Lugano since our arrival.



### MARCH

As we approach our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (in September), we planned a trip to the United States. We are very grateful for this opportunity to both celebrate our family and enrich our ministry. After visiting New York City, we traveled to the Midwest, where we reconnected with AIMers, leaders, and pastors we had previously met in Europe.

In Indianapolis, we were inspired by our visits to **Calvary Christian School, Calvary Tabernacle, and Indiana Bible College**. We also attended one of IBC's chapel services—what a blessing!

In Terre Haute, Rev. and Sis. McLeod welcomed us warmly. We also connected with Rev. and Sis. Shock, as well as Senior Pastors Rev. and Sis. Harpole. One of the most impactful experiences for us was the opportunity to speak at a **Life Academy** chapel service. Even more than what we gave, we were deeply touched by what we received. The children and teens were incredibly receptive and welcoming. Having them pray for us is a moment we will always cherish.

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In St. Louis, we had the privilege of visiting **Urshan University** and **UPCI Headquarters**. On Sunday, we attended Restoration Church, where we met the Trimbles and the Hunleys. Furthermore, spending time with our **Regional Director**, Rev. Nathan Harrod, and his family was a great blessing. Sitting at the table together and talking about ministry on multiple occasions deeply enriched us.

Finally, in **Chicago**, our last stop, we could connect with Rev. and Sis. Lo Cascio and see the wonderful job they are doing in the area.



After returning to Lugano, during our last service in March, a young woman who **found us online** came to church. She said our online presence is very effective and that she was looking for a church where service was in English. She told us she had asked God for a sign and was hoping to receive a Bible. When we gave her one of the KJV Bibles we had brought from the United States, she recognized it as God's answer.

Moments like these remind us that **the Kingdom is moving** behind the scenes and that there are still hungry hearts in Europe.

If you want to support us in prayer, please remember these needs:

- Reaching key hungry people who would bring others to church
- Better visibility of the church and more opportunities to witness
- Tearing down strongholds of indifference and Humanism

God bless you!

Steve & Samantha Padilla

