

The Bates's in Italy

Training Italian pastors to reach the Italian people.

A Beautiful and Busy Month



Hopefully you read our last email, but in case you didn't we received our visa and can now officially remain in Italy! There is one more hurdle that remains. Since we are already in Italy, we have to leave the EU and come back through the border with the visa. So, we'll be heading to the UK at the beginning of November for two days and returning to Italy with our visa. Then, we have 8 days to formally apply for residency cards once we're back. It's an exciting time for us, with plenty to do.

We were talking yesterday and we agree that the most beautiful time of year in Bologna is October. The sun is out, the temperatures are getting cooler, and fall is definitely in the air. At the beginning of this month, Clark was asked to speak at an academic conference in a small medieval town in southern Emilia Romagna (our province). He spent several days getting to know other Italian academics and share some of his research, as well as sleep in a castle! This was an important opportunity to start making connections with academics from the University of Bologna and begin the process of making IFED more visible in the academic world.



The Castle in Bertinoro.



The streets in Bertinoro.



The view in Bertinoro from the conference location.



The very next week, Clark was also asked to attend a pastoral conference in Genova as a representative of IFED. There is a new and growing group of churches in Northern Italy that are connected with The Master's Seminary in California. They are starting an institute to train pastors through the writings of John Macarthur and while they are not as academically-focused as IFED, we are making efforts to work together to spread the gospel. It was a wonderful experience of worship and teaching, and Clark even had the opportunity to finally meet in person the director of a Christian school in Rome with whom he has been speaking online. We're praying for these relationships to continue to grow and for the Lord to help us heal historic divisions between the various groups in these regions.





A few photos from Genova.

If that wasn't enough, Clark was also invited back onto the Alisa Childers Podcast to discuss Roman Catholicism. That episode was released yesterday and already has more than 35,000 views! We're praying that God will use it to bring people closer to the gospel and equip them to have healthy conversations, in love, with their Catholic friends or family. You can watch the YouTube video here: https://youtu.be/JToRy0h4MRY



Jessie is progressing very well with her Italian school. Her teachers recognize that she is the long-term student in the class and see her potential. This also means they push her more than the others. She had a milestone this last Sunday as well. One of her stated goals was to learn Italian so that she could finally speak with an older woman in our church named Pina. Well, this Sunday the two of them sat together for at least ten minutes in conversation! It was a blessing for both of them. Next month, the boys will begin formal Italian language school as well, so we're praying that this will open doors for them to make friends and become more comfortable here. Bethany is moving through her last year of courses swimmingly and is already in the process of applying for scholarships for nursing school next year.

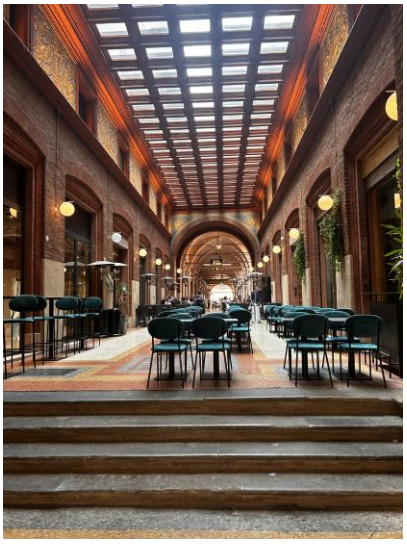


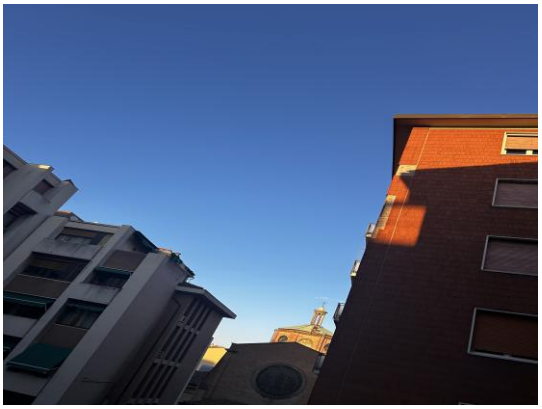
Please be praying for the month of November, as Clark has another speaking engagement in Verona and we continue to work with our local church here in Bologna.

Thank you again and again for your support and prayers. We cannot do any of this without you. As you think to pray for us this coming month please be praying for:

- Clark's upcoming Talk on How We Got the Bible, November 18, in Verona.
- For everything to go smoothly when we re-enter the country next month and apply for residence permits.

- Jessie’s wisdom and patience with the children in school and her opportunities to grow in her Italian and share the gospel with her teachers and fellow students.
- For Bethany to be able to focus on doing her best this year and God’s protection as she prepares for her future.
- For Alex and Levi to do well in school and find ways to make friends and settle into our new environment, and to apply themselves diligently to learning Italian.









A few more photos from Bologna.

In Christ,

The Bates Family

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Clark, Jessie, Bethany, Alex, and Levi
(The Bates Family)

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