

An especially interesting news letter from Kelly Fann November 2006

Hello Everyone (with a capital E),

While I was home (in Texas), I probably promised one, if not all of you, that I would keep you more updated on what's happening here in Italy. Sometimes it's hard to feel like I can make time for it because my time is never my own- which is true anywhere. I pray that I learn to worship God better with my time.

Being back home (in Italy) is fabulous. The trip back wasn't eventful at all. We slept. To those who know me well, I guess that's an event, but otherwise no big news or mishaps. Getting here however was fabulous. We unpacked and took showers while one of our students, a carabinieri (military police) friend, made pasta and bread for lunch. The guys set the table, and for the first time in a month, we all sat down and broke bread together. For anyone who knows what it is like to 'do life' with people, sharing a meal can be one of the most holy occasions of all. It was nice to catch up. Poor Pierluigi did all he could do to keep up as I translated Amy's storytelling.

Church was incredible. Not because anything extraordinary happened. But the reunion of saints is a marvelous thing when you have honestly missed them. It makes you realize how much you love people. More than that, it makes you realize how great heaven will really be... Most of us from the Bible School and a few church members went and got Chinese take-out after services and went to a park to play soccer. About 20 neighborhood boys (we're talking 11-14) came and played with us. Cell phones ringing left and right.

Classes are starting up this week and it is all I can do to keep up with calling people and setting times and dates for things. I think I am at around 20 students, which equals about 35 lessons a week. Five of them are teenagers. The rest are adults. Lauren (another teacher) and I are working on a school calendar of events that will include English progress reports, movie nights, and other school and church activities. We are also working on curriculum to use in our grammar classes. Gary and Jennifer (the directors) should be back from the States literally any minute now.

The school itself is looking better than ever. There are, of course, still floors to be waxed and there are always rooms to clean and paint, but we are getting there. The library is very shiny and orderly since we moved it up two flights of stairs and reorganized. We even found a couple volumes from the 1800's. One of the church members has volunteered to be our librarian. We're teaching him the Dewey decimal system. :)

I find myself delving into some big conversations these days. Why is cheating on your girlfriend really not the plan God has for your life- Doesn't God make His people worthy of the joy He gives them as they follow His will? How can Christianity say that other religions are wrong. Actually, more pointedly, how can Christians say that other people aren't going to heaven? Not even just Italians. I find daily that email and blog sites are full of people looking for something real. Why they are looking on the Internet of all places, we'll never know...

Please continue to pray for the seekers. I pray daily that people will approach me to hear God's truth

spoken into their lives. And then I pray that God reveal that truth to me each day in a way that is relevant and real so that I am prepared to be His reflection. Sometimes I wonder how in the world we can participate in God's goodness- in His inheritance as Paul says in Romans- and not want everyone else to experience that hope and that peace for themselves.

Live life on purpose this week. Bravi if you managed to read this far!

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Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.