

Brandon & Kristin Edwards working with the church in Catania

My students and a few words about them

Dario Spina

-Dario Spina is 21 years old and a member of the church here in Catania. He is studying English because he wants to be able to communicate with the Campaigners that come through every summer and other English speaking brothers and sisters. He is a very enthusiastic brother who is coming into his own. He has become VERY active in the past few months and is really seeking Gods will in his daily life. He recently sent out a letter to all the youth in Italy (via the church) to help organize a summer campaign of Italians going into Italian cities and working just like the American campaigners do every summer. He is a joy. Pray that God will continue to use his enthusiasm to push the Italian youth into a better direction.

Virginia

-Virginia is what i would call a seventies hippie. She makes her own jewelry and is a cruise ship entertainer. She began our English course to better her English so that when she does meet people on the ship that speak English, she can better communicate with them. She is incredibly fun to have around and is always ready to sing an obscure american 80's rock ballad. She is catholic by tradition and has not been to "church" since she had her "first communion". She is not really interested in Spiritual things, but is always asking questions about the church and God. She doesnt like it if i bring it up, but if she has a question, shes never afraid to ask. She just left for the summer months to head out to Australia for a 4 month cruise tour. Pray that God guide her in her search. She knows shes missing something.

Giorgia D'Agostino

-Giorgia is a 16 year old girl here in our community. Her parents are faithful members of the church and she speaks almost fluent English. She basically studies with us for conversation practice. Her father also wanted me to study Bible with her during our English studies. She is VERY near to becoming a Christian and is asking all the right questions. She is influenced by her friends alot and, in my opinion, is waiting for the summer months when shes not in school to make her decision. She is a wonderful blessing and everytime I turn my head shes talking to Kristin in English asking about "Highschool Musical" the movie. Pray that God will guide her in the coming time and in her decision making.

Belinda Mangione

-Belinda is a 38 year old married woman who is REALLY searching. She has been through 2 major car wrecks in her lifetime and has memory issues. In the first wreck she was in a coma for two months and was even given the catholic "last rights". In the second, she was pronounced dead only to be brought back to life. She is happily married to Paolo, who owns a coffee bar in Catania, and has been over to our house for dinner. She loves Kristin and always asks about her when she doesnt see her. She is seeking very hard. She knows God has a plan for her and is actively looking for HIM. She is a practicing Catholic yet doesnt believe in Saints, priests, and the Pope. PLEASE pray for Belinda. She needs prayers to overcome her own culture to be able to accept Christ.

Giuseppe Coco

-Giuseppe is a 44 year old retired Italian Special forces marine. He used to speak english fluently which he learned while in Beirut with American special forces. He has forgotten almost all of it and wants to learn it again. He is currently unemployed and is married with two children, Luca (18) and Valentina (11). He has come with his daughter on two occasions to our singing class. We meet 5 days a week and we have been through alot together. I've seen him cry, curse, and then pray. Im saddened today because he came in and told me that he wouldnt be coming anymore to our lessons. He said that I was making him confront things about himself that he doesnt want to change. He said he knows its not the right thing but he just cant care about them right now. So he quit. Pray for Giuseppe. I hurt for him right now.

Dario

-Dario is a 32 year old bookstore employee. He works at the pentecostal bookstore in town and is very open to talking about anything spiritual. He recently had knee surgery and has been gone for about 3 weeks. I pray that God will continue to guide him in his search for the truth. He will be coming back from rehab in about 2 weeks.

Xin

-Xin Chen is an 18 year old Chinese girl who speaks 5 languages fluently. She speaks Chinese, French, Spanish, Italian, and English FLUENTLY. She is absolutely brilliant. She is also constantly sad. Her parents own a clothing store in town and after school she comes and does english lessons and then goes to work until midnight. She has no friends, no outside world. Kristin and I are the only ones she talks to outside of school and her work. She is constantly talking about going and studying abroad but everytime she brings it up her parents tell her no. She is buddhist but didnt know it until she asked her parents after I asked her what religion she was. When i told her that Kristin and I regarded her as our friend she began to cry. She is a sweet sweet girl and we pray for her. We pray that God may guide her in all things.

Salvo and Milena (and Luca)

-Salvo and Milena are a wonderful couple with a 5 months old little son named Luca. Salvo is a Doctor who specializes in Cardiology. Milena is a house wife. They both speak English very well and are trying to learn more. They are both open to talking about alot of spiritual things. The main issue that they have is that they are "burned out catholics". They have become so anti-catholic that they are also anti-religion. We have been bowling with them and spent several days with them in the past months. They have really taken us under their wing. We love them dearly and pray daily for them. Pray that God may guide them into his love and that they may see HIM through all of the mess that is the "christian" world.

Salvo

-Salvo was my first student in Sicily. Hes a 25 year old college student who is working on his masters thesis. Hes a brilliant man who is a non-practicing catholic. However, he is very big on the catholic traditions and takes part in all of them. Pray that God may guide him to find what hes looking for.

Sara and Luca

-Sara and her eight year old son Luca are from the island nation of Mauritius. They are both pentecostal and very active. She speaks English fluently but her son does not so they come for lessons. She recently confessed to me that she was very angry with the holy spirit because she has never been able to speak in toungues and that was keeping her from growing in her faith. We talked along time about this issue and made some very good inroads. Pray for Sara and her son Luca that they may find peace. That they may find you in this mess of "christianity".

Nicoletta

-Nicoletta is a 40 year old Romanian woman who speaks english pretty well. She takes care of an 88 year old retired Italian military general and loves her job. She is very open to talking about God and is a non-practicing Catholic. She really enjoy talking about Gods power and its been a constant talking point for us. Pray for Nicoletta. Shes a wonderful soul.

There are many others who are just at the beginning of their studies with me. I wont mention all of them but just a few.

Mario, Luca, Roberta, Julian, Damiano, Nino, Adele, Sarah, Mariano, Luciano, Matteo, Carlotta.