

We hit two big important anniversaries this month. On May 5th we celebrated our first wedding anniversary! It's hard to believe that we have been married for a year already, while on some days, it seems like we have been married for even longer! On May 12th we celebrated our first full year in Italy. Not so much a big deal for me but a big deal for Kristin. Technically this was my 10th year in Italy and 13th abroad in my lifetime. For Kristin, it was her first ever year completely away from "USA". We looked back on a lot of wonderful memories with new friends, old friends, new places, and more. We have been so blessed in this past year and we thank God everyday for all that he has given us.

Well, the summer is here and its getting HOT in Catania. Thankfully, we don't have the humidity that we both know from our time in Arkansas and Tennessee! However, it can still get over 100 here very easily and the Sicilian island is known for its hot North African wind that blows pretty strong during the summer months. We are both interested to see how hot it really gets here seeing as how we arrived in November. Living on the 11th floor of our apartment building is going to be nice though as we will have more breezes and cooler nights.

Along with the summer, comes a lot of work! The Catania church owns two different buildings, in different parts of the city, and I have begun to offer english lessons at both locations. So every Friday, I walk 3 miles across town and set up for my lessons at the Piazza Iolanda building. We haven't done any distribution in the area so I didn't know if we would end up with any students. The only thing that I did do was to put up a sign on the door that said "Free English Lessons using the Bible". From that door post I now have 6 students on Fridays at the Piazza Iolanda building. I have a mother and son from the island of Mauritania, a lady from Romania, and three business men who work together and wanted to do lessons due to their traveling to America and England a lot. I wasn't really expecting that many from a simple door poster! At our main building, I now have about 30 students, give or take, in a week. Again, WAY more that I was expecting. I spend about 40 hours a week in English studies as of now. Its gotten so busy that I have to make plans just to get home for lunch! Kristin has been great as she has taken over a couple of my students who are more advanced, and can speak english clearly, so that I could take on more students. As of now, I'm having to put people in classes because I simply don't have enough time to give all of them one on one time. Life is busy but good!

A group of 11 American Campaigners from Harding, along with the Shawn Daggett family, are arriving next week for a 10 day stay with us here in Catania. The community here in Catania are very excited about this and we are all making arrangements to spend as much time with them as possible. We are arranging pizza nights, soccer games, community outreach, and so much more. We will be holding a 4 day biblical conference on "Does what God say matter anymore?" as the main theme. It will be split into 4 parts on "What does God say about the inspiration of scripture?", "What does God say about Jesus?", "what does God say about his church?", and "what is Gods definition of a Christian?". The campaigners will be doing distribution for this conference for about a week prior to the actual conference. Shawn Daggett will be the key-note speaker. We are very excited about this conference and hope that God may open a lot of doors for us in our community.

On a wonderful note, Stefano and Rinuncia Spina have finally arrived and have

begun their full-time work with the church here in Catania. Stefano is the first full time evangelist here in Catania in almost 20 years of so. He is a wonderful family man who is truly going to change the world starting with Catania. We ask for your prayers for him and his family as they begin this new work here in Catania. There is a wonderful feeling over the brothers and sisters right now as they feel we are at a turning point. For a long time numbers had been dwindling down from what they used to be and they felt a change was needed. The good part is that Stefano Spina is originally from Catania so its like welcoming back a long lost son who has been working with the church in Taranto, Italy. We are very excited about this!

Part two: Its been about a week since I started writing this update and so much has happened in that time. The campaigners have arrived in force and it has been a VERY busy week. Kristin and I are hosting three of the guys at our house. It feels like we have adopted three grown sons! Kristin is loving the company of the girls, as they come over and hang out in the afternoons, and it has been great to speak english again. We printed about 50,000 flyers for our conference and, in three days, they are finishing distributing them as I write this! They have worked extremely hard and we have been impressed with their work ethic, their good attitude, and their constant smiles.

This past Friday night, the 23rd of May, we had a BIG Italy vs. USA soccer match. This turned out to be a lot more fun than we expected! We played from about 10 pm until close to midnight. We had a great time and nobody got hurt (the most important part). The best part was how many of the church came and cheered on all of the players. We had close to 40 members of the church come and watch. That's close to half of the congregation! The church has really gotten behind the campaigners and have been really involved in the distribution. Many of them have even taken vacation time just to be there. It is great to see them so active and out and about.

Kristin and I take off this Wednesday to fly up to Florence to visit with Rick and Susan Harper (along with kids) and hopefully also get our permesso di soggiorno papers. We are really praying for this! We look forward to seeing the Harpers and also to a few days rest after such a long month. Kristin is really showing now and this will be our last chance to go anywhere until our little Charlotte Kimberly Edwards joins us in this world. We are getting really excited!

Part three: Well, Kristin and I spent a wonderful 4 days in Florence and Rome with the Harpers, from college church. It did rain most of our time in Florence but Jimmie Harper and I were able to catch the Italian national team in action against Belgium. The rest of our time was spent visiting the HUF villa, the Florence Bible School, the Duomo, St. Peters Church, The Vatican, and much more. We really enjoy visits from the states and I really enjoyed being able to show off my "home" cities. The Harpers were wonderful and really encouraged us in our work. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers. We love and miss you all.

Brandon and Kristin Edwards (and Charlotte Kimberly on the way!)