

INFORMAZIONE

informazione – formazione – azione

70

may 2025



MISSION (STILL) UNFINISHED

The last words of someone about to leave us are especially important, whether they are a promise to meet again or a dying wish. Such words leave a deep mark on our hearts, particularly if there is a bond of love.

Before ascending into heaven, the Lord Jesus left his apostles with important words that would mark the rest of their lives — and the lives of the disciples who would arise from their ministry: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus' final words are often referred to as the 'Great Commission'. They begin with an affirmation of Jesus' supreme authority and end with a

promise of his constant presence. In between, we have the commandment to 'make disciples', which is the essence of the Church's task in its service in the world.

The rest of the sentence surrounding this commandment illustrates ways to fulfil it. First, 'go'. Although it is a participle in the original language, it is accurately translated as an imperative: we are called to take the initiative in making disciples and to reach out to others. Secondly, 'all peoples'. As is made very clear in the rest of Scripture, the call to be disciples of the Lord Jesus is addressed to 'persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.' (Rev. 5:9). Thirdly, 'baptising'. This verb encapsulates evangelistic work, which culminates in water baptism in the name of the triune God. Finally, 'teaching'. The mission is incomplete if it does not include teaching disciples how to put the Lord's commands into practice, so that they may be presented 'fully mature in Christ' (Cl 1:28)

So, where are we with this mission? It is difficult to make an assessment, but despite much encouraging progress, the mission is still unfinished. To date, many people have never heard of Christ. In fact, it is estimated that two billion people have yet to hear the Gospel. Who will proclaim Christ to these people? Disciple-making is also an incomplete task. The Italian church is therefore called upon to help fulfil the Great Commission, not only among Italians, but among other peoples too. At IBEI, we therefore aim to contribute to developing a global vision. The missionary journey and the latest issue of Lux Biblica are small steps towards this goal, and we hope that the Lord will multiply these efforts and renew our joy in reaching all peoples.

If we love our Lord, His final words should constantly occupy our thoughts and fill our hearts with a burning desire!

DANIELE P. PASQUALE



Macedonia Mission

This year, a group of students participated in a missionary trip to Struga, a town in North Macedonia located near the border with Albania. Local missionaries in this region have long been reaching out to the predominantly Muslim Albanian population with the message of the Gospel. The trip's guiding theme was "The Lord Who Goes Beyond Expectations," which proved more relevant than ever. The students saw firsthand how God works beyond what they had imagined or planned. Through evangelism activities, sharing, and hands-on service, they bore witness of Christ's love and experienced the importance of collaboration. The local Macedonian community was welcoming and eager to engage with young people willing to dedicate their time and energy to the Kingdom of God. This experience left a deep mark in the hearts of the participants, teaching them that mission is not just a momentary action, but a way of life based on love, obe-

dience to God and a willingness to serve even in culturally different and challenging contexts.

Oscar: God is great! This missionary trip reminded us that God is far greater than we could ever imagine. In just six days, the Lord worked powerfully through our weaknesses and gifts, strengthening the church in Macedonia and deepening our faith. This personal and collective experience moved us to trust God more. We pray that God will continue to bless Struga and those who serve there faithfully.

Alessia: The trip to Macedonia was a profound experience of God's patience, love, and providence. Despite our weaknesses and my lack of preparation, I witnessed the Lord's powerful hand at work, using us as instruments to touch the lives of those we encountered and bear witness to his presence. I learned that when God calls us and we feel unfit, he provides everything we need to serve and glorify him.

LUX BIBLICA N° 71

In mission, together

The Fourth Lausanne Congress, held in Seoul, South Korea, and its related documents and working groups were truly global in scope. In the latest issue of Lux Biblica, we offer our readers a glimpse of the Congress

through contributions from Italian participants. Our hope is that this issue will inspire the Italian church to embrace its mission more fully, together.

Subscribe to Lux Biblica for the 2025–2026 biennium and receive a **free** back issue, as well as the opportunity to purchase additional back issues or monographs at a **20% discount** through IBEI.

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IBEI's Mission

The heart of IBEI's mission is to assist churches in training believers to be prepared to serve. After 65 years, by the grace of the Lord, IBEI continues its ministry primarily through its four schools.



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A few months ago, the **European Council for Theological Education** renewed the accreditation of these schools' programs. The European Council for Theological Education is a member of ICETE (the global network of evangelical Bible schools) and part of EQAR (European Quality Assurance Registry).



Additionally, a new three-year term began in April for the IBEI Association, with a new **Board of Directors** (BoD) and **Executive Committee** (EC).

The BoD consists of Fabio Montanari (President), Emmanuel Giuni (Vice President), Emilio Speciale, Mark Oden, and Davide Bogliolo. After many years of service, board members Daniele Salini and Adino Genta are ending their commitment. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts!

The EC consists of Daniele Pasquale (Principal), Susanne Waldner (Vice Principal of Teaching), Francesco Grassi (Vice Principal of Research), and Antonio Calò (Administrative Officer). Andrew Hamilton is ending his role as vice principal, though he will remain in office until the end of the academic year. We would like to express our gratitude to Andy for his many years of service as Distance School Coordinator and the past three as Vice Principal. We are grateful that he will continue to serve IBEI as a teacher.

We are also pleased to welcome Adriana Xhixhi (pronounced Gigi), a former Distance School student, to the position of secretary.

NEXT EVENTS 2025

- > **Open Day Bari**
May 24
- > **Academic Year**
- > **Closing Ceremony**
June 7
- > **Experience Rome 2025**
Study Holiday (English)
June 14-21
- > **Bless Nations Experience Rome**
July 12 - August 8
+ August 18-20
- > **Peter seen from Rome**
Study Holiday (Italian)
August 9 -17

ibei.it/news-ed-eventi



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Via del Casale Corvio, 50 - 00132 Roma

Tel. 06 20762293 - 06 20765413

e-mail: segreteria@ibei.it