

INFORMAZIONE

informazione – formazione – azione



Two thousand years have passed since Jesus asked His disciples this question, yet the answer remains anything but obvious in our society. Some consider Jesus to have been a great man—an exceptional teacher and communicator, a supreme example of compassion and love, a refined thinker, and an effective leader. Others see Christ as the product of a popular myth-making process that turned a man—Jesus of Nazareth—into a deity. Still others view Him as a character fabricated through the opportunistic speculations of political and religious leaders of the first centuries. But to consider Jesus as the Creator become creature? The eternal God incarnate? The only Savior of the world? No thanks—too lofty, too exclusive.

Western society—and in some cases, certain branches of the Christian church—seems to have turned its back on the figure of Christ whose divine identity was once unquestioned for centuries. Modernism and postmodernism, with their respective

rejections of the supernatural and of absolutes, have significantly shaped the prevailing view of Christ: a historical figure to be uncovered beneath layers of Christian texts, or an inspirational icon to be molded according to personal interpretation.

Not to mention the various religions with Christian background (Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Islam), which do not identify Jesus of Nazareth as the eternal God, but at most, as a god or a man filled with divine spirit.

“Who do you say that I am?” In fact, the Christian Church gave an answer exactly 1,700 years ago at the Council of Nicaea. That answer was the fruit of deep biblical reflection—a process that would continue through creeds and councils for centuries, leading to a biblically faithful and theologically precise definition of Christ's nature.

Of course, Nicaea didn't say everything about Christ or about Christian theology. Just think of the topics of soteriology and ecclesiology, which came to the forefront during the Protestant Reformation; the doctrine of Scrip-

ture, central to debates in the twentieth century; or anthropology, today's new “hot” and polarizing issue.

Yet the Nicene formulation remains a cornerstone in the development of Christian theology precisely because of its ability to distill the biblical message about the divinity of Jesus into carefully chosen words.

The autumn issue of *Lux Biblica* focuses on this very topic, drawing from Nicaea's answer to the question: “Who do you say that I am?”

This question, of course, is not merely an intellectual enigma to decode. It is a question of vital importance, not only for this life, but for eternity, not only for intellectuals, but for every human being.

And it's a question that we, as believers, given our carnal and innate tendency to make idols in our own image, must regularly ask ourselves to truly align our lives, affections, and actions with the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Word made flesh.

DANIELE P. PASQUALE

ROMAN SUMMER



BlessNations Experience - Rome

Theology without practical experience is dead, toxic religiosity.

Practical experience without theology is mysticism and fanaticism.

This summer, twenty young adults from Switzerland, accompanied by an Italian-Swiss staff, spent 40 days in training and missionary service in Rome and other Italian cities.

The first three weeks at IBEI were dedicated to biblical studies on the first-century context and the Letter to the Romans, enriched by guided tours of Rome to connect study with historical sites. Life in community, supported by excellent food, included personal and group devotions, prayer, sports, evangelism, practical work, worship evenings with Roman brothers and sisters, and visits to various churches. The final week at IBEI was set aside for personal reflection on the personal calling God has for each one of us. In the last ten days, the group split into small teams to serve in different

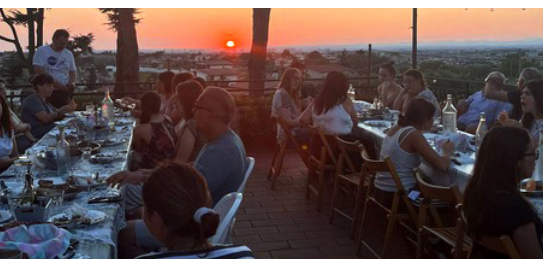
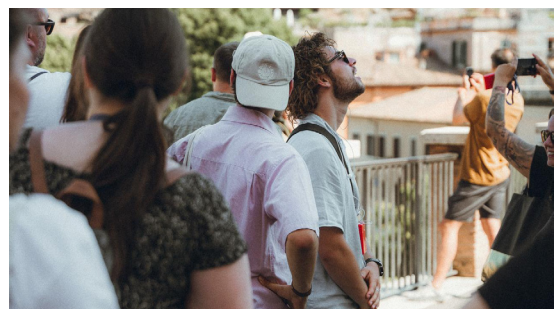
Italian locations:

- Ispica with Daniele and Felician Loreface.
- Mondragone with Giuseppe Conte.
- Volterra with Emmanuel and Deborah Giuni.

It was a time that revealed the beauty and greatness of God, who faithfully walks with participants through doubts, challenges, and pain—but also through hope, joy, and desire. This was a season of deep, collective growth that left everyone enriched and thankful.

In addition, IBEI hosted a group of musicians who recorded several songs on the institute grounds (soon to be available at Eden Music - edenmusic.ch).

BlessNations Experience - Rome (bne-rome.com/it/) is a new project that is already bearing fruit, with great potential for the Italian church, the formation of young disciples, and inter-church connections. (Emmanuel Giuni)



Study Vacation

The *Study Vacation* (SV) at IBEI was born out of a desire to offer churches in Italy a new kind of experience.

It's aimed at believers who long for something more formative than (the still excellent!) Christian camps yet accessible and enjoyable for all.

Structured as a blend of study, history, and leisure, this year's edition followed the same spirit of the first ("The Letter to the Romans Viewed from Rome"), but focused on the apostle Peter—exploring his presence in Scripture, memory, and art.

Study sessions alternated with historical walks in the heart of Rome, group

discussions, and daily devotions.

In the quiet and scenic countryside surrounding the Villa, IBEI proves to be an ideal setting for this kind of experience.

Those who served found they received more than they gave.

Guests discovered a safe place—a family to study, pray, talk, and share deep fellowship with.

Participant Rachele shared these uplifting words: "I encourage you to keep organizing this kind of vacation—it's a blessing for both body and spirit; a truly blessed and uplifting time to continue walking with God."

See you next year! (Francesco Grassi)

New Students and Their Goals

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

FIRST YEAR



LEANDRO SCHERRER

Pentecostal Church, Locarno (Switzerland)

“To deepen and strengthen my relationship with God and become more like Jesus.



MICHELE GOFFREDI

Baptist Church, Mantua

“To learn how to evangelize, change aspects of my character, and grow in biblical knowledge.



NOEMI LERMA GARCIA

Baptist Church, Malaga (Spain)

“To grow spiritually, learn to hear God's voice, and acquire new skills.

SECOND YEAR



OSCAR EUAN BASSETT

Evangelical Christian Church Logos, Florence

“To grow in the light of the Lord Jesus—in love, humility, discipline, and obedience.



SARA DI CROCE

Evangelical Church Galed, Vasto (CH)

“To invest in my life and equip myself to discover how and where I can be useful to God.

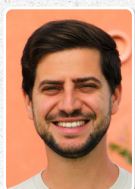


MICHELE CIOCIOLA

Reformed Baptist Church, Imola (BO)

“To learn to fully depend on God for decisions and completely trust His plan.

THIRD YEAR



EMANUELE CANZERI

Apostolic Church, Ribera (AG)

“To be challenged in my weaknesses and see God at work in my shortcomings.



NATAN NAPOLITANO

Evangelical Christian Church, Ruchheim (Germany)

“To truly cling to El Shaddai — ‘God who is more than enough’.



PAOLO CRAITA

UCBC Church, Casalecchio (BO)

“To know the Lord through the IBEI community and relationships, and to discern how to serve Him specifically in missions.

ONLINE SCHOOL

FIRST YEAR



MATTEO BOLOGNESI

Apostolic Church, Modena

“To gain theological knowledge in order to serve the church's growth and edification.



MATTHEW MALONE

UCBC Church, Milan/UK

“To deepen my understanding of the faith and the Bible in order to better serve the Italian church.

New Extension School in Turin

The new Extension School in Turin has officially started! With 25 enthusiastic participants, we've launched the academic journey by diving into the course Inductive Bible Study. If you live in or near Turin, it's not too late to register. Don't miss this opportunity!



Staff

The IBEI staff are ready to begin a new academic year! Here's our team (from left to right in the photo): Chiara Piciucchi e Luca Perolli (box), Community Life Coordinators; Adriana Xhixhi, Secretary; Ruel Franzese, Cook; Susanne Walnder, Vice Principal, Academic Affairs; Francesco Grassi, Vice Principal, Research & Librarian; Stefania Greco, Accountant; Marti Sanders, Kitchen & Maintenance Coordinator; Daniele Pasquale, Principal; Desiré De Giovanni (box), Distance Learning Coordinator.



LUX BIBLICA No. 72

Christology Yesterday and Today

Reflections on Christ 1,700 Years After Nicaea

The upcoming November issue of Lux Biblica will examine several themes related to the Christological formulation at Nicaea. Article titles include:

- “Nicaea, A.D. 325: An Anniversary Worth Reflecting On” – R. Corrado Primavera
- “Christ and the Canon: The Biblical Text as the Foundation for Christology” – Daniele P. Pasquale
- “The Nicene Creed: A Foundation for Orthodoxy” – Christopher A. Hall
- “The Worship of Jesus in the Earliest Years: An Introductory Assessment” – Francesco Grassi
- “The Suffering Love of God in the Incarnation: Kenosis and Theopaschitism Beyond Classical Christology” – Christopher Zito



Subscribe to **Lux Biblica** for 2025 and 2026 and receive a **free** back issue and a **20% discount** on additional back issues or IBEI monographs.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS AT IBEI

> IN MISSION, TOGETHER

November 23, 2025 – 4:30 PM

> CHRISTOLOGY YESTERDAY AND TODAY

February 22, 2026 – 4:30 PM

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

Autumn Term (Sept 15 – Dec 14, 2025)

> New Testament Survey 1; Ministry Project; Ecclesiology 1

Winter Term (Jan 12 – Apr 12, 2026)

> Inductive Bible Study; New Testament Survey 2; Hermeneutics

Spring Term (Apr 20 – Jul 19, 2026)

> Theology; New Testament Survey 3; Pastoral Care 1



COUPLE WANTED AT IBEI!

We're once again looking for a couple to live at the IBEI Campus in Rome, helping with pastoral care of residential students and assisting in various practical tasks.

Interested—or know someone who might be?

Contact us: preside@ibei.it

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 **ibei_roma**
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