

INFORMAZIONE

informazione – formazione – azione

72
may 2026



THE PARADOX OF SERVICE

Serving the Lord is a paradox that sometimes leaves us puzzled. On the one hand, we recognize that only the Holy Spirit can work in people's hearts, just as only the Lord Jesus could accomplish redemption through His death and resurrection. In a sense, we are merely spectators of this wonderful work of salvation, and as grateful beneficiaries we find ourselves thanking and worshiping our God. On the other hand, Scripture clearly teaches that the Lord desires us to love Him with all that we are: heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deut. 6:5; Mark 12:30). This means making every effort in every area of our lives to serve Him and contribute to the mission He has entrusted to us, both on the "internal" front (committing ourselves to being growing disciples) and on the "ex-

ternal" front (committing ourselves to making growing disciples).

And this is where the paradox emerges. All our efforts for the Lord are completely insufficient in themselves; they are unable to achieve anything truly deep and lasting. Yet the Lord requires those efforts and transforms them into something spiritually effective for us and for the world around us. Remember the episode of the multiplication of the loaves and fish? A small amount of food, insufficient to feed the crowd, became in Jesus' hands such an abundant banquet that the leftovers far exceeded the original food.

Each of us has something to offer God, but it will not be what we have that impacts the world. Sometimes we become discouraged, thinking we have absolutely nothing to offer. At other times, we deceive ourselves into

thinking that our talent, resources, or energy will accomplish wonderful things. But as I was reminded at the Lausanne Congress 2024, "no matter how much you bring, whether a lot or a little, it is always five loaves and two fish." The determining factor is in whose hands we place our offering! All this should make us humble, knowing that we are not the ones making the difference, despite the efforts we are willing to invest in the Kingdom, because compared to the immense needs, it is always five loaves and two fish: totally insufficient. At the same time, we will be filled with confidence and zeal, because the almighty, all-knowing, and loving Lord is the guarantee that He will multiply our simple offering in extraordinary ways for His glory.

DANIELE P. PASQUALE

North Africa Mission

A Week That Leaves Its Mark

A city in North Africa, an intense week, unexpected encounters, and the real possibility of seeing the Gospel at work in a complex and fascinating context. Our Residential School students experienced a full immersion trip to better understand the spiritual reality of the place and help share the message of Jesus with the local population.

In a Muslim-majority nation where choosing the Christian faith can be considered betrayal — with consequences ranging from family rejection to the death penalty — bearing witness to the Gospel represents an enormous challenge. Yet not an impossible one. After basic training on the culture and spiritual challenges from the lo-

cal “workers,” along with learning a few words in the local language, the students had valuable opportunities every day to converse with local people and talk about their faith. Language barriers, often feared before departure, were largely overcome thanks to translation technology, while the well-known hospitality of the people opened doors and hearts in surprising ways.

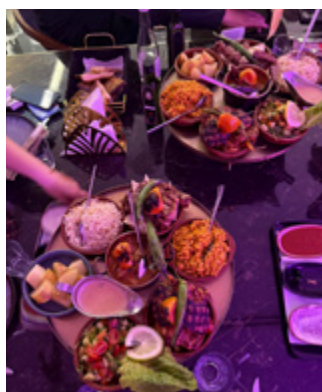
Erika shares that “it was wonderful to see how easily we could converse with people and receive their hospitality.” Paolo also carries a special memory: “The episode that impacted me most,” he explains, “was a conversation with a young taxi driver where my simple

question, ‘Are you Muslim?’ led to a long conversation about the Gospel.”

Alongside the joy of these encounters, the students also sensed the reality of spiritual warfare. James, who accompanied them, says he was struck by the call to prayer echoing five times a day: “There was a strong sense of oppression.”

Yet precisely in the midst of these difficulties, the Lord’s presence became powerfully evident. Diletta observes that despite the language obstacles, “the ability to interact was beautiful and supernatural! The Lord worked through all of this”.

A demanding experience, but also a deeply formative one. As Sara summarized: “It’s one thing to study these realities, it’s another to see them firsthand.” For this we thank God for such a precious opportunity.



AESI 3.0

IBEI alumni now have a renewed home: the IBEI Alumni Area (Area Ex-Studenti IBEI)! The goal remains the same: supporting former students by offering ongoing training, a meaningful relational network, and a real impact within the IBEI world. The new development is that all alumni are now automatically part of AESI and will be involved in various activities, beginning with the exclusive webinar on June 8, “Preaching the Prophets” with Andy Hamilton. To learn more: aesi@ibei.it



AREA EX-STUDENTI IBEI

Behind the Scenes

The educational ministry of IBEI — including academic programs, publishing, conferences, and seminars — is possible because of a great deal of activity behind the scenes! Let's meet some of the people who are not seen in the classroom, but who support IBEI through their work.

The IBEI Board of Directors. Last April 11, during the annual Members' Assembly, new board members were elected! The current leadership team introduces itself with a few words of gratitude and hope for IBEI:



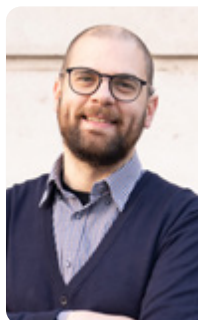
FABIO MONTANARI
PRESIDENT

I am **grateful** for the variety of gifts among the members and the Board, and for our unity of purpose. I **hope** in the Lord that the Institute will remain stable and become increasingly known and recognizable within the evangelical world.



EMMANUEL GIUNI
VICE PRESIDENT

I am **grateful** for the faithful work of those who came before us and for the fruits that, by God's grace, have come and are continuing to mature. I **hope** in the Lord because He remains faithful and merciful and honors those who seek Him despite our limits and flaws.



DAVIDE BOGLIOLO

I **thank** God for how He provides through so many people who work, study, and support IBEI's mission. I **hope** in the Lord that many students and Italian churches may come to know and benefit from IBEI's ministry.



ANDREA PAPINI

I am truly **grateful** for the opportunity to try to serve on the IBEI Board. I believe that providing technical and spiritual training is one of the noblest purposes available to us, and I **hope** in the Lord that IBEI may become increasingly useful to God's plan, prepared and forward-looking.



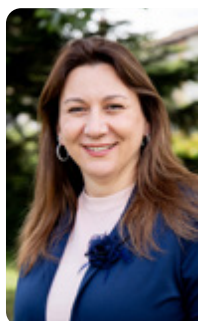
JESSE PAULY

I am **grateful** for the way God is working to bring unity and collaboration to the evangelical church in Italy through IBEI. I **hope** in the Lord that all believers in Italy who desire to deepen their knowledge of Scripture will find IBEI a good place to study.



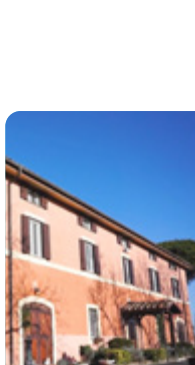
EMILIO SPECIALE

I am **grateful** that despite our limitations the Lord has blessed us throughout all these years. I **hope** in the Lord that our efforts and commitments will not be in vain, but that the work of spreading the knowledge of His Word will continue for all those who deeply desire to know it.



**STEFANIA TROMBACCO
HUNZIKER**

I am **grateful** for the enthusiasm, dedication, and tremendous work I have found in the IBEI team and Board. I **hope** in the Lord that He will continue to shine through His Word and bless the Institute's ministry of biblical training.



Community Life Coordinators. We are very grateful to the Lord for providing a new couple for this delicate and important role! James and Heidi Romano, missionaries, have been living on IBEI's campus with their children Katelynn, Jaden, and Liam since January. They have taken over from Luca and Chiara Perolli, whom we sincerely thank for their excellent service at IBEI over the past year and a half.

LUX BIBLICA N° 73 Art and Theology

The new issue of *Lux Biblica* addresses a fascinating and timely topic: the relationship between art, beauty, and the Christian faith. Through a solid biblical and theological perspective, the magazine invites readers to rediscover art not as a marginal element, but as a gift from God connected to the *Imago Dei* and the glory of Christ. The articles explore literature, music,

visual arts, and spiritual formation, offering valuable insights for believers, artists, and church and ministry leaders. A rich and stimulating issue capable of speaking to the mind, heart, and culture of our time.



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!



Preaching the Prophets

by Andrew G. M. Hamilton

The prophetic books of the Old Testament play a fundamental role in revealing God's plan of salvation.

Yet most believers tend to keep them at a distance, as do many preachers who struggle to navigate this unfamiliar territory. However, the

Church needs to hear and respond to the beauty, depth, and relevance of the prophetic message. This book encourages and equips preachers to move confidently through this unexplored territory, helping God's people discover and appreciate the magnificent landscape of this part of Scripture.

WORD, EXPERIENCE, COMMUNITY



At the **Residential School**, discover the whole Bible through a panoramic approach, experience training enriched by practical ministry opportunities, and grow daily within a true community life. What are you waiting for? **Enroll by May 31 and receive a €500 tuition discount!** Scholarships are also available.

SUMMER PROGRAM 2026



- 6/6** End of Academic Year
- 6/13-20** Experience Rome 2026 • Study Vacation (English)
- 7/7-8/6** Bless Nations Experience Rome • bne-rome.com
- 8/8-16** From Caesar Worship to Christ Worship • Study Vacation (Italian) • ibei.it/vacanza-studio-2026
- From 9/12** Naples Extension School • Enrollment open!

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Thank you!