



# EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE 2008

Family & Friends,

I'm so excited to tell you about the European Student Conference that happened last weekend! I believe God really used (and will use in the future!) the weekend to push students towards himself. The conference was quite the experience—almost 200 European students and staff gathered in Bristol, England for a weekend of challenging messages, training in evangelism, and practical ideas for students to use in reaching their campuses. After one evening session one of the girls I meet with, Miriam, told me “We need to meet when we get back to Rome to start these things at La Sapienza!” I was encouraged. God is moving and building leaders!

The concept of a conference was really new for most of the students. Almost all of the students grew up in Catholic homes and some were exposed to regular church attendance, but the idea of a “rock band” (worship band!) and an informal talk was quite shocking! It was neat to talk about culture—what it means to love God, who Jesus was, and how to differentiate things like music and ritual from the basics of what it means to be a Christian. It was a weekend full of newness—from the Worship music to Starbucks coffee (which is quite different from the Italian cappuccino!) The conference was a great time to build community (I can already see it!), greater exposure to other believers around Europe, and a chance to grow in love for Christ. Thank you for praying and giving financially to send these 7 Roman students. Be encouraged—God really used the weekend in HUGE ways for our ministry here in Rome. Please continue to pray for these students: Alessandro, Daniele (m), Andreea, Miriam, Chiara, Ana, & Maria Teresa.

# Studia della Bibbia



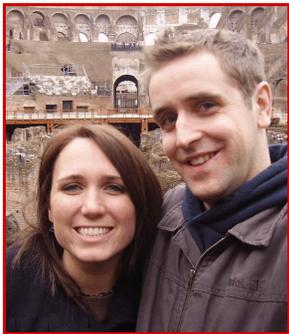
In order to provide more nights for our Italian believers Bible studies, we are now hosting studies Tuesday and Wednesday nights this semester. We've already had a couple studies (I attend the one Tuesday night), and have been really encouraged! We are continuing to study the book of Luke and examining who Jesus really is. Last week I asked for students to raise their hand if they had ever read all of Luke. No hands. Any one of the Gospels? No hands. I've come to realize that this is the first Bible study for every student attending. This has a lot to do with the culture in Rome: they've never had permission to read Scripture. Please pray for these studies!

< a few students after our Tuesday night Bible study (that's my apartment!)

## Spring Break: here come the laborers!

During the month of March, 125 American students will be sent from their partnering universities in America to us here in Rome during their week of Spring Break. Having these students here to help in ministry is so significant. We're trusting the Lord to introduce these students to Italians who are ready to hear the good news, and believers who are looking for growth. We also want to increase our learning of how to do ministry in the context of Italian culture. We will be sending students daily to campuses around Rome to meet new students, share the Gospel, start English Clubs (an avenue to meet & serve students and create an opportunity for spiritual conversations), and host outreaches. If there was a month to start praying for Rome- this is it!

\* \* Check out my website: [www.LinRoma.wordpress.com](http://www.LinRoma.wordpress.com) for more specific ways to pray (& loads of other stuff!) \* \*



< My boyfriend, Andy, who is British staff with Campus Crusade in England came to visit! We've been dating about 5 months. He's such a blessing!

## On a personal note...

Many of you have started asking what my plan is after the academic year finishes. Good question! At this point I wish I could provide a solid answer backed-up by a detailed plan (I like plans), but I'm not quite there yet. What I do know is that I will return mid-July to Michigan. I'm currently filling out my application to come back to Italy more long-term (and to join staff full-time with Campus Crusade for Christ). Would you pray for me as I seek the Lord if this is the next step for me? The thought of serving

more here in Rome is rather exciting- God has done so much in growing the ministry, raising up laborers (staff members, church partnerships), and student leaders- I can only imagine what he has in store next! But there are steps- joining staff, raising support, finding a Roman apartment, etc. Please pray for this time of decision! Where moving to Rome is full of vision, it's also a little scary to move away from the States more long-term (2 more years minimum).

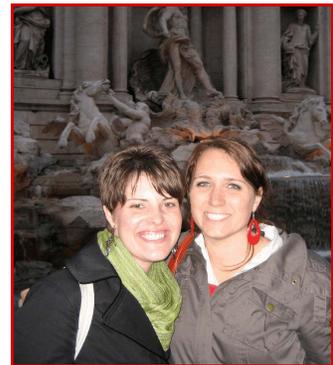
Two real needs at this point are 1) a job, and 2) a car. If the Lord were to lead me back to Rome I would find a job in the Ann Arbor area for about a year (Please pray for a well-paying job starting this summer that uses my degree and skill set).

I would then start to raise up a financial and prayer team of supporters (would you pray for this as well?) I'll be leaving Rome with not much money in my pocket, so please pray for the Lord to provide an affordable car. If you have any suggestions on either immediate needs (job opportunity or a car for sale) please email me!

Thank you for your prayers both for the ministry as well as me personally!

Advancing the Gospel in Rome together,

*Lauren*



^ my friend Megan came to visit last week. It was so fun and encouraging!

