



The Bates (not yet) in Italy

Training Italian pastors to reach the Italian people.

Bates Family Newsletter: October Update

Church Edition: Cinisello Balsamo





This week 's newsletter is a few days late, because we wanted to wait until after Monday. The reason for this is that on Monday we received the finalized contract for our new apartment in Bologna! We have been blessed (once again) by the Institute who has graciously stepped in as cosigner on our behalf. Without them, it's likely we never would have found a place. While we are still waiting on our Visa, it is such a blessing to know that we have a home for when we arrive. We will be living within the

walls of the city center, within walking distance to our church and to the train station, making Clark's commute easier. Please continue to pray for our Visa to arrive shortly.

Continuing with our series on churches in Italy that are served by IFED, we move slightly south to the region of Milan and the city of Cinisello Balsamo (CB). CB is a small hamlet just north of the bustling city of Milan, which is the financial center of Italy, and potentially all of Europe. Like Trento, the food in the Milano region is more like Austria, its Alpine neighbor, but what the region is most known for is its risotto. A creamy rice dish, often served with meats or veggies.





The church in CB has a very long history, with this year marking its 32nd year in existence. When it was founded it was originally part of a Protestant movement known as the Brethren, a group similar in ways to modern Quakers. In 1990, the church was reduced to only a few families which began to meet in the home of the pastor. The congregation grew in two years following and approached the Evangelical church in Padova (the home church of IFED) to come under their supervision and guidance. In 1993, a building was procured, and since that time they have even created a reading room and limited

library.



Today the church is very active in the community, working with children in after school groups and summer groups, as well as preaching regularly in the open air and in parks.



Like most churches in Italy, they are average around 20-30 believers each Sunday. They meet on Fridays as well for a time of prayer and Bible study and are led by Pastor Francesco Stelluti. Being fortunate enough to have been gifted a building by an affluent friend in the Lord, they have the security of knowing that their church can remain where it is without persecution. Their preaching and ministry distinctives can be seen at their website here:

<http://www.balsamoxlacitta.it/wordpress/>.

The church in CB is committed to reaching the communities outside of Milan, often overlooked in missionary and evangelistic work. They serve the people of Italy who are not often seen by tourists, and have even less opportunity to hear the gospel than those in the major cities of Italy. Their faithfulness to the gospel has stood the test of decades and they stand in a long line of Protestants who have contended for the faith

in Italy for centuries.

Will you join us in prayer for the Evangelical Church in Cinisello Balsamo and Pastor Stelluti?

**If you haven't partnered with us financially as monthly partners, now is the time!
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<https://give.missionquest.org/missionary/250>.



Clark, Jessie, Bethany, Alex, and Levi
(The Bates Family)

