

**JULY 14.** Thanks for the great response on day 1

It started off great :

We stopped at Coolidge park to rent the bikes and as I was trying to check off 13 of them one of the employees came out. I explained who we were and what we were doing and... the owner is out next....

The wonderful thing (and a sign from the Father) is that the owner of the operation is of Italian descent and it does not end there....his last name is Pugliese which is the term used to describe people from Puglia which is EXACTLY the region where these kids are from....they are Pugliese.....how awesome is that! Needless to say he let us use the bikes **for free**. What a start!

In the PM as we hung out by the pool I wanted to hear what they are expecting from this trip and I shared what was on my heart for them: that they would keep their mind, eyes heart open to the most important possible encounter of their lives: one with the Creator ! Thank you for being such an encouragement and a wonderful example for them.



Well,

last night we got back from Atlanta after sending the kids back to Italy (we kept one here-Angela- until May for discipleship). The last day I invited the hosting families and the kids to gather and reflect on the project and we could feel the Spirit's presence. I want to share some snippets in the **short video** so that you can appreciate it more closely (**see it in the media section of our site- at the bottom!**) For now here are some pix from the baptism, YL camp and last mtg. We all believe seeds were planted in abundance by us, the host families, the business owners, school presidents and YL staff. Definitely a spiritual full immersion!! Gippo (my atheist friend gave his life to Christ and would like to get involved in discipleship). Marco also made a commitment. Salvatore and Giovanna (also in the pix) are on their way since they opened up dramatically, but need to process a few things. More to come....

Now we need to rest a couple of days to process the whole thing and have our Father refuel us. I will come back with reflection in a short video. Thanks for keeping us in prayer...heavy attacks on many fronts....need your protection as saints and supporters in this battle! I felt the prayers of many of you: thanks Bob B, Rene, Sandra L, Ty H, Judy O, Tyler M, Phillip B, Greg K, Deborah, Pasquale, Dallas, Herb R, Sarah, Lauren H, Paul A, Jay W, Heidi A, Jenny C, Todd M. Much love. Impossible to do this without your pillars of prayer and \$. Thanks.

