

Student Responses

School of Architecture & Interior Design
Study Tour Summer 2016

“The silence in the mountains of Italy allowed me to reflect on my growth and my relationship with God and how important it is to follow his will even when it seems like all the odds are against you. After reading about the Waldensians and visiting the different places they had been I definitely have a greater respect for them as a people. The strength that they had through such a trying situation and the staying power they showed is something I can barely wrap my mind around. I definitely hope that one day I will be able to have half the strength that they had and the undying faith that they exemplified.”

“I ... found myself in complete admiration for the strength of [the Waldensians'] faith. The worse they were mistreated and persecuted, the more incredible it was that their faith only seemed to grow in fervor. I suppose sometimes you can't really know the true fortitude of your faith until it is tested to its absolute limits, as that of the Waldensians was. They truly are an exemplar of real faith and I'm extremely grateful for having the opportunity to study them at such a close proximity.”

“I now see that even when things happen that cause you pain and God does not intervene, that does not mean that he does not care and is not present in your life. The Waldensian were devoted people who kept his word and tried to do what was right, but every 100 years disaster would strike them. Some times they saw God's hands protect them; other times they did not, and from what I know now I think he was always there with them, but sadly he had to allow some of these things to happen. So, as I relate this to my life as I have gone through these hard times, I now see God was with me even though I did not see his hand at work. I now have an even stronger desire to be in a relationship with God.”