

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

Number 103, March 2018



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The winter months do not tend to have the big "events" that are the usual subject of prayer letters. It is instead a time for the normal week-to-week activities which, at the end, are those that produce more fruit. For us, this means mostly the Bible study groups and the Sunday School.

In September the church started two new weekly groups, dividing the existing group at Trento and adding a few people who were not attending any group. This means that Pinuccia has been able to attend a group this year, and it has been good for her to have this opportunity for fellowship with others. It also means a large drop in the number that come to the group that I lead. But it has been good – having a smaller group means being able to do studies that are better targeted towards what is helpful for the group members, and also being able to support better a couple of the members who have messy and difficult family situations.

The Sunday School class (10-12 year olds) that Pinuccia and I, together with Enrica and Gloria, take turns in teaching is a good challenge. With 5 of the 6 children having various learning difficulties, a 'normal' lesson is not possible. So there is a lot of creative thinking each week to work out how the children can learn and apply the story of the Bible and the 10 Commandments (this year's syllabus). To help with this, all the Sunday School teachers participated in an afternoon of training in January, where we looked at this and other issues. An Italian lady in full-time ministry (doing



Teaching about Solomon's temple, and so how to have access to God both then and now, using Lego.

such training around Italy as well as other ministries) travelled from Florence to help us in this. She actually grew up in the same church as Pinuccia in Sicily, and Pinuccia taught her in the Sunday School there many years ago. So the circle was completed, and it was good to see some of the fruit of Pinuccia's teaching a long time later. As is normal for Italians in full-time ministry, she certainly does not have close to full-time support, so we helped with a few support raising meetings for her in Trento whilst she was here.



The group, of which I am a part, that is working on how the church can help refugees, has started an "open church" time on Friday afternoons. This is first of all to give an opportunity for the refugees in the church to spend some time with the others, chatting, playing, learning Italian, or whatever, but also for the rest of the church to just "hang out" with each other. Due to the dispersion of the church members all over the province, and the fact that we are no longer a small church, we have noticed that it is hard to form deeper relationships with others. So in fact a number of people have started organising social events for the congregation. We have not done this for quite awhile, so it is good that we are growing in this area. On the other hand, we tried to host an evangelistic event, *The Mark Drama*, in the church in these months, but were not able to because there were not enough volunteers to be able to do it. We need to grow as a church also in this.

In the family

Another reason for which it has been a slow period lately for us is because our health has not been too good. We have just finished a period of two and a half months in which we all took turns getting the flu from each other, including some relapses, and another fever seizure for Mattia. So apart from Pinuccia and I taking our turn with the flu, there have often been children at home sick, trips to the doctor, or visiting medical specialists for our children's existing problems. So it has not been easy to get things done. In particular, Daniele's scoliosis has returned to the level it was when it was first diagnosed 4.5 years ago. So after 3 years when his back had straightened, he will have to wear a back brace again for a while, especially as his growth spurt will be arriving in the next couple of years.

We are also starting to get ready for our trip to Australia, from mid June to mid August, after three years in Italy. We would like to be able to share what God has been doing through us in this period, and thank those of you who have been supporting us, so if you would like us to visit your church or group or personally, let us know and we can fix a date.

Upcoming events

11-18 April: ECM biennial conference in Spain

14 June: departure for Australia

15-17 June: children's camp – I will be doing all the preparation for it, but then leaving it to others to run, as we will have already left

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- For the weekly ministry of the church – the services, the small groups, the Sunday School – that the regular teaching and applying of God's Word will have an effect, and that we will continue to encourage and exhort each other.
- For our Sunday School class Stefania, Sofia, Daniele, Stefano, Sara, and Arianna, that they will grow as disciples, and grow up knowing that God made them special for a reason.
- That the church will grow in its fellowship and evangelism.
- For better health for our family, and especially for Daniele's back.
- That the conference will be a refreshing time, spiritually and physically. We are all a bit tired. I will also have various meetings due to my roles in the leadership of the mission.
- For the preparations for the camp and for our time in Australia.

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