

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

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On Thursday 14th we will be leaving for Australia. I don't think I have ever come less prepared than this time. As well as all the usual activities, we have been busy with a large number of end of school year concerts, recitals, parties, and more for the children. I have also been doing all the work organising the church's children's summer camp which starts the day after we leave, and preparing the end of year presentation of the Sunday School a few days before. It has however been a great help having Pinuccia's parents stay for two weeks just before we leave, which meant a lot less house work for me to do and more time preparing everything else.

While we are in Australia, we will have to raise more support – the first time it has been necessary after 26 years, thanks to God's provision and supporters' generosity. Although the support we receive has remained constant lately, ECM Australia is no longer able to pay for some of our expenses, like superannuation and conference fees. These used to come out of general support and other income, which are less now, and ECM has more expenses of its own. So the amount I receive each month needs to be increased.

In my last newsletter, I wrote about our tiredness and sickness. Soon after, we went to Spain for a week-long conference for all of ECM, which is held every two years. I was not expecting great things, as with the family it is hard to be involved in the activities or to spend time and talk with others. But I was surprised! It was the best conference I have been to since we were married.

Stefania went to the teenager's group for the first time. After the initial panic of having to meet new people, she fitted in, making

some new friends, and blossomed. Being almost the youngest of the group, she matured looking at the faith from the perspective of older people, and was involved in ministry for the first time. (In church, she is almost always the oldest of her group, so has lessons pitched at a younger age than herself.)

Daniele was happy in his group, wanting to go also at the optional times, and learnt some new hobbies.

Luca and Mattia enjoyed the fun night, dancing along to all the music.

Pinuccia managed to have a walk with just me for an hour, something we can rarely do, and generally we were able to be closer than we usually can.

I had more opportunities to speak with others, both informally and in the meetings of the three committees I am part of in the international leadership. I had been working on the policy for developing new leaders in the mission, and it was gratifying to see this being used and developed. As always, the teaching was excellent, and in particular was useful for thinking through some themes in the Bible that I have been reflecting on the past year.

In May, there was a first for Trento, a combined service for the evangelical churches of the province. This is the fruit of a regular meeting between the pastors, which have been happening regularly over the past year. There have been difficulties between the churches in the past, so it was a big step forward to be able to have such meetings. There are eight churches currently involved, three at Trento and five elsewhere in the province, with a few more that might be a part in the future. There are also a number of ethnic churches (African, Chinese, Brazilian, Romanian), but they tend to live in their own cultures rather than



Stefania at her end of year gymnastics exhibition, and Daniele in the leading role in the class play.

connecting to the Italian speaking churches – except for the Urdu group which is linked to our church, and which is one of the eight.

On the last day of school, Stefania won first prize in the school Variety Show. Any artistic ability she has certainly did not come from me, but from Pinuccia. However, since her entry was a video clip created on a tablet (for the pictures) and a computer (to make a video from the pictures), some of her genetic inheritance from me might have been a factor!

Upcoming events

These are some of the main meetings and trips whilst we are in Australia, so you can pray for them. If you would like to meet us at one of these events, let me know and I can send you more details. Otherwise, we can arrange another time to meet as we still have some free dates.

16 June: Arrival in Sydney

24 June-1 July: Canberra (Crossroads and Dickson Baptist)

11 July: ECM thanksgiving dinner

15 July: Lalor Park Anglican

21 July: Newcastle

22 July: Carlingford Anglican

29 July: North Rocks Anglican

2-6 August: Holidays!

21 August: Departure

Don't forget to pray as well for the church children's camp 15-17 June, and the teenagers' camp 1-7 July (that I do help organising in a small way).

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- For another year of school completed, and for how the children have matured in this year.
- For the help that the conference was to us all.
- For the preparations for our trip to Australia and for our meetings.
- For the meetings we will have, and for the time spent with old and new friends, that we will be an encouragement and help.
- For an increase in our financial support.
- That the relationships and mutual help between the churches in the province of Trento will continue to grow.
- For the church children's and teenagers' camps during the summer.

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