

# RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

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We have been in lockdown for eight weeks, going out only to go to the supermarket and pharmacy. In that period we were busier than normal, managing the family (including school) and the house, but there was nothing that happened apart from the usual routines.

Even though there are still 300 deaths and 1500 new cases each day in Italy, the situation is more manageable, and the first national restrictions were lifted on May 4 – we are now allowed out to go for a walk and get exercise. Even the children can go outside now. Some businesses and shops will be opening over the next few weeks.

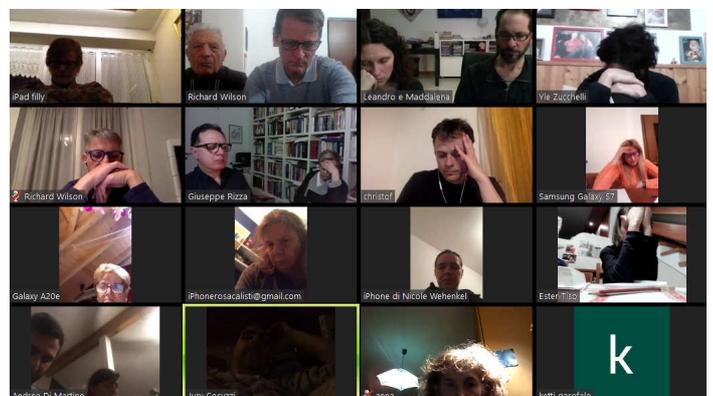


First day out together

Pinuccia's parents came to visit us for a few weeks in mid February, but when the lockdown started they had to stay here. So there have been 8 people in the house, but we would have had difficulty doing what we had to do in the house if we had not had their help. Although they are now allowed to go home, there are only a couple of flights a day to Sicily and we are not allowed to drive them to the airport. So they now have a flight booked on June 1st, when there will be flights again from our closest airport, at Verona (if the flight is not cancelled in the meantime), and when I might be allowed to drive them. If not, we will have to put them on a train and bus to get to the airport from here.

## In the church

My only regular commitments in the past couple of weeks have been running a Bible study and a prayer meeting each week on Internet. The church has also continued with another weekly Bible study and a streamed church service each Sunday, that others have organised. The Bible studies have continued to be better attended than before the lockdown, as people find them more convenient and many have little to do in this period.



All meetings in the country are still prohibited, with no indication when they will be permitted again. However the Catholic church complained about this decision, and in a week obtained an agreement with the government to be able to run services from May 18, with a lot of rules about how to hold the services. In theory, this concession is extended to other religious confessions as well. But as a church we will have to decide if we can hold services or other meetings in these conditions, or if it will be worthwhile waiting a few more weeks when there will be less restrictions.

## On the computer

The main project I have been working on lately, when family commitments leave me some time, is re-writing my app for iOS. The app I wrote a few years ago is now old by their standards, and so will be taken off the Apple store at the end of June. In order to be able to re-write the app, I had to obtain a new Mac computer and iPad, because my others were too old for the new requirements. Since we have run out of room in the house for computers, with now two for school as well, I have to set up the Mac and put it away every afternoon.

## Upcoming events

School in its current on-line form will continue until June 10. It will restart in September, although no-one knows what form it will be then. Pinuccia has an annual contract until the end of June, so has

## Prayer and thanksgiving points

- That the family coped well with staying home together and doing school differently.
- That Pinuccia's parents were "stuck" with us, and pray that they would be able to get home soon.
- For wisdom for the church leaders, thinking about how to be a community in this transition period.
- For time and clear thinking to finish the iOS app before the old one expires.
- For the mystery of this summer and the new school year, that we can continue to trust in God's work in every circumstance.

continued to be paid even though the preschool where she works is closed. We do not know if she will be offered another contract in September if the preschool does not reopen. Between then and now is the other unknown for us, and everybody else – what will happen during the summer? All the summer children's and teenagers' camps have been cancelled; this is a big loss for all youth ministry in Italy. We do not know whether we will be able to go away to spend time with family and friends in Sicily, if we can visit other places in Italy, or if we can meet up with other Italian ECM missionaries, as we usually do in summer. And nobody knows when we will know.

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