

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN ROVERETO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca, and Mattia

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Way back in 1992, on September 15th, three days after my 29th birthday, I left Australia for a new phase of my life, in Italy, where I arrived on the 16th.



Today, September 19th 2021, 29 years and three days later, I have lived exactly half my life in Australia and half in Italy. Tomorrow I will be more Italian than Australian!

Today is also the beginning of a new phase in my life.

.After 29 years serving the church at Trento, we are beginning our time helping the church at Rovereto.

In the apartment

We successfully moved to our new apartment near Rovereto in July. There were a few last minute problems, as is often the case, but God provided the solutions – once literally in the last seconds, with the money from our selling arriving in our bank account, so that we could buy, just before the bank closed.

As was to be expected, it took us a while to fix the apartment up for the family and to get it ready for others. But now that the school year has started, and with it the normal activities of the church and also of the town, the apartment is ready, even though there is still some work to do to improve it. We pray that the apartment will be used to serve the churches at Rovereto and at Trento, and also be a place of witness and blessing in our town.

The family is enjoying the extra space in the apartment that we have, but also the differences between Trento and Rovereto. Many have noticed that, for historical and demographic reasons, Rovereto is more open and friendly. In fact, the first day we went to the new apartment to tidy it up and prepare it for the house move, one of the neighbours invited me in for a beer. In 15 years in our previous apartment block, I had never once been invited socially into one of the other apartments!

In the churches

Our formal ministry at Trento and Rovereto is beginning to take shape. I will be leading the mid week Bible studies at Trento for another year, preparing other people to take over next year. Pinuccia will be restarting the Sunday School at Rovereto (composed of just Luca and Mattia), along with two other ladies. I will occasionally help with leading the church services, although since there are already capable people doing that, I do not want much of a role there. We will also be leading respectively the men's and women's Bible studies, and giving help (mostly encouragement and transport) to the teenagers' group, which is combined for the two churches. The idea is also to regularly meet some people for personal discipleship, although that still needs to be organised.

An important ministry that we want to have is hospitality, that we have had to reduce for the past few years, first because Mattia and Luca took up a lot of our energy when they were younger, and then Covid restrictions came into force. But now we have more energy, the legal possibility, and a better apartment to invite people to. We have already put it to work. Last Sunday we invited all the Rovereto church to our house for a triple party. First of all, it was a housewarming party to introduce the apartment to the church. Second, it was the first



potluck church lunch for 18 months. Such lunches were a regular monthly event, and an important time of fellowship. Some people were almost crying from the joy of being able to spend a decent time with others in the church again. Third, as it was also my birthday, I had a reverse surprise birthday party – I knew it was my birthday party, but the guests did not. Unfortunately, the secret got out, but at least one person did not know and was surprised. Today after church we will be repeating the experience for the church at Trento: another housewarming party, the first church lunch for 18 months for them, and a reverse surprise balance day party for me.

Support

Over the years, financial support tends to decrease while costs tend to increase, and this has also happened to us in the last 29 years. We currently have a shortfall of about \$450 per month between what is donated to us and how much the mission sends us each month. We would have tried to raise these funds in Australia this southern winter, but it was not possible to make the trip this year. If you would like to be a part of the third phase of my life, as we start serving the church at Rovereto, you can send financial support to ECM Australia at the addresses listed at the bottom of this page.

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Thank God for his faithfulness and provision for 29 years and 3 days in Italy.
- Thanks for the provision of the apartment, which is great for family and for ministry.
- Pray that the apartment will be used to serve the churches at Rovereto and at Trento, and also be a place of witness and blessing in our town.
- Pray that as we start our formal ministry at Rovereto, that God will bless many through our service.
- Pray that God will continue to provide financial support for us.

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How to give to ECM:

Cheques and money orders: payable to European Christian Mission

Direct Deposit: NAB, Australia, BSB 082171, account 509197512



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