

News and prayer info from *Number 66a, January 2009* Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania and Daniele Wilson

There has not been a lot happening to write about in the last few weeks, for a couple of reasons. So I will make up for it with more photos than usual.

The first reason was a few snowfalls in the first part of December, which resulted in a few Bible studies, church meetings, band practices and even a day of school being cancelled. I managed to have two weeks without a single night out because of that, which must be a unique happening, and which Pinuccia was happy about given that usually I am out most nights. It helped my cultural adaptation a bit more as well. Whilst trying to push Stefania through the snow in a stroller to school, I saw lots of children arrive on a toboggan. So in a pause in the snow I bought one, and the next time it snowed I pulled her to school whilst she sat on it.

The second reason why there has not been much happening is that we took the opportunity of the Christmas and New Year break to spend two and a half weeks

in Sicily. It had been a year since we had been with Pinuccia's family, so it was good to see them again. It meant a lot of visiting relatives and friends, and the period of the year meant a lot of extra festivities as well, but even the children were able to adjust to the different lifestyle (like eating dinner at 9pm, when we usually try to put them to bed at 8.30). Although it was not hot there, going to the beach in Sicily was certainly better than going through another snow storm that there was in northern Italy that closed roads, airports and schools.

The main event of this period for us, however, was the end of year presentation by the Sunday School, which in fact ran over two Sundays, one at the end of November and one just before Christmas. Since Pinuccia is in charge of the Sunday School, and I am one of the teachers, we had a fair bit to do in organising that. Apart from trying to give a male voice to the preparations (against the eight female teachers), my main role was preparing a song for the children to sing at the presentation. I



Stefania on the back lawn at the end of November.

Daniele and I in Sicily at the beginning of January.



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pulled out some hidden talents for the occasion, and wrote one especially for the event. If you are interested, you can see a video of it in the message of 1 December 2008 on my blog at <http://richard.laparola.net/>. About \$2000 was raised for a Christian school in India that the children of the Sunday School support.

The Rovereto group has been having trouble meeting lately. Apart from the snow, other meetings were cancelled due to people missing for sickness or work commitments. A few people from the group have stopped attending it and the church, which means that a couple of people absent has a big effect on the group. We are thinking and praying about where we want to go with this group, and how. On the other hand, the three groups at Trento are continuing to grow, even too much. Two are larger than the maximum number of people for the groups to run well, and the third is getting close.

In the family

There was also one event that was supposed to take place, but which did not. I mentioned in my previous newsletter that Daniele was booked in for an operation on December 5. The hospital rang three days before to postpone it a week. So on the 11th we took him in for some pre-operation checks, battling the snow to do so (including taking 2 hours to get the car out of the underground garage, as the ramp was too slippery). Then the following day we left at 6.45am to get Daniele to the hospital and ready in time for the 8am operation. I returned home to get Stefania off to school. Then at



The Sunday School singing at the end of year presentation. Stefania is at the front in the middle.

My class: Marika, Samuel, Marie Joe, Giulia, Emma



9am, Pinuccia rang to tell me that the operation had been cancelled because too many of the hospital personnel were on strike. So it was back to the hospital again to pick them up. The hospital should contact us soon to tell us when the operation has been rescheduled. But in any case the operation is not urgent, so there is no problem with that.

*Thanks as always for all
your prayer and support.*

Upcoming events

24 January: Bookstall at Rovereto

3-5 February: ECM meeting at Madrid