

News and prayer info from Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania and Daniele Wilson

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In the mission

I have just come back from a week in Spain. But rather than being my twice yearly meeting for leaders in the mission, it was the two yearly conference for everybody in ECM. So the whole family came this time. Having to look after the children meant that we are not able to use the time outside of the meetings to chat with others, which is something I have missed in the last few conferences. But it was probably one of the most helpful conferences for reflecting on my own ministry in the light of the Bible and the example of others. Having as my main ministry now the starting and handing over of small groups, most of my church ministry time is spent in preparing and leading group meetings. Not necessarily a bad thing, but it has been a shift from what I was doing in the past, when there was more individual discipleship. It was a gradual shift in my ministry that I had not been aware of. Maybe when I talk with the elders in a couple of weeks about my ministry after the summer break, I will be able to reduce the number of groups I lead so as to be able to meet with more individuals. PS: See <http://richard.laparola.net/> for a description of our volcano disrupted trip home.

it better. So, looking on Internet, I discovered your site. Through it I will try my spiritual walk that I desire so much, but that I did not know how to do, fearful of not being able to understand by myself the Bible. Now, with your help, and that of the Holy Spirit, I will try with more peace.

In the family

With a one week Easter break from school for Pinuccia and Stefania, then after only two days the week at the ECM conference, we have been able to spend more time together as a family. The better weather that Spring has brought has helped as well, as there are more possibilities for things to do. Although it is not easy for me, since I work at home and always have something more I can work on; I need more discipline to decide, "No more work now, only family". Pinuccia and I have also been thinking about what sort of family we want to have and how to go in that direction. This is of course a challenge for all parents. But now that the children are a bit older (4½ and 2½ years old), it is something that we can see that they respond to now. This is especially true for their spiritual development.

Points for prayer

- For possible changes to my ministry next year, for the best choices to help the church
- For those that use my resources to read the Bible in Italian
- In our family, for godly children brought up by godly parents
- For the children of the Sunday School, for the camp, and for Pinuccia that leads this ministry

On the computer

As I have mentioned previously, in these few months in which I have already prepared all the Bible studies that I have to do, and in which we have not yet decided the next series of Bible studies in the church which I will have to prepare, I have been dedicating more time to the development of my computer program and web site to study the Bible, and new resources to use with them. So since my last newsletter, I have managed to release two new versions of the program. I continue to receive many messages of encouragement from my users throughout Italy who benefit from what I produce on the computer. Here is just one example of many:

I wanted to complement you for the wonderful site; I discovered it by chance when, at an evening meeting, the priest advised us to read the Bible to understand



In Spain with the family

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In the church

There is a lady that has been coming to the church since September, through an interesting route. Last year she taught the nine year old daughter of one of the church members, and saw that she was different from the other children. So she started coming to church, although she had had some contact with evangelicals in the past. She brought her son, who is the same age as the girl. They are in fact both in the Sunday School class that Pinuccia and I teach. It has been great to see the boy grow in these six months, for example his own satisfaction when he prayed aloud for the first time. He is ten now, which is the age when children have the first communion in Italy, an important "rite of passage" in the society and a family event second only to a wedding. And after that they start doing catechism in the Catholic church. The boy did not want to do first communion, a courageous choice when all of your school friends do it and get lots of gifts as well when they do. But his father insisted, although he did concede that after doing communion the boy would be free to choose to do whatever he liked. So the boy went to confession (a necessary preliminary to communion), where he told the priest that he did not believe that he should confess his sins to a man, but only to God himself. The priest rang the parents after that, but his mother told him that it was alright, the boy was correct. The boy has also told the priest that he will do the first

communion in May, but that the priest will never see him again. Sometimes, God just works in wonderful ways, beyond your expectations and plans, and we can only thank God for the privilege of being able to be his instrument in teaching people with the power of his Gospel.

At the end of March, Pinuccia led a four hour training and planning meeting at our house for the Sunday School teachers. The preparation was exhausting and stressful for her, but what she presented to us was helpful in our teaching, and was appreciated by the teachers. There was also a lot of discussion on the two main events of the Sunday School year: the end of school year presentation in May (in which the children will be putting into practice the lessons on giving, selling some of their own toys in order to raise funds for a school in India they support), and a four day camp in June. The whole family will be going to the camp, although since our children are underage, Pinuccia and I will

take turns in leading different aspects of the camp (together with three ladies in the church), whilst the other will look after the children.

There was a big night for us recently, when we invited the young adults of the church to dinner. With other friends that were invited as well, the dinner just kept growing, and we ended up with 26 people in our lounge room for dinner. This certainly stretched the capabilities of the house – we only have 21 chairs for example – but the house survived. We put on the "Wilson Family Restaurant", complete with upside down golden arches ('W' for Wilson), and offered hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and a few other dishes. It was good to see people mixing well at the dinner. The last couple of years the Young Adults' group has been good at incorporating new people to the church, but for various reasons it was not been doing so well lately. So the reason that we organised the dinner was to help this. And it worked. The non church friends were also made to feel welcome, in fact they were all in church the next morning as well.

Upcoming events

- 18 April:* Monthly service at Rovereto
- 29 April:* Richard meets with the elders to discuss and plan the small groups after the summer break
- 13 May:* Pinuccia meets with the camp leaders to plan the children's camp
- 16 May:* Monthly service at Rovereto
- 30 May:* End of (school) year presentation of the Sunday School
- 13 June:* Baptisms in the church
- 16-19 June:* Church children's camp



The Young Adults in our lounge room.