

## **In the family**

We spent a couple of weeks over the Christmas-New Year period in Sicily visiting Pinuccia's family and some friends. It was our last opportunity to see most of her family for a year, as this summer we will be in Australia. As usually happens, it was fairly hectic as we caught up with everybody. Then there were the traditional holiday get-togethers as well. All in all, a lot of eating (of good Sicilian food), and two extra kilograms by the end.

One of the positive things about going to Sicily in this period is the weather. It is not exactly warm, being similar to a Sydney winter, but after the negative temperatures and snow of Trento last month, going out to sit or play in the sun is nice. We even went to the beach a couple of times, no swimming however. So it was good for all of us to get some vitamin D before returning home, and also for the children to have the opportunity to run around and play outside, which they rarely do at Trento because of a lack of both sun and nearby open spaces.



Relaxing in Sicily.

Another advantage of Sicily is that, unlike at Trento, there are lots of family members that are willing babysitters, and since Stefania and Daniele can go to bed later whilst we are on holidays, Pinuccia and I got to go on a date together, to the cinema, the first time we have done that for a couple of years.

### **Points for prayer**

- Thanks for the rest and support from family in Sicily
- For energy and motivation to serve the Lord how he wants us too.
- For the growth and plans of the church plant at Rovereto
- For the growth of ECM ministries in Italy

On the way back home, we had another small adventure. Not as big as the volcano induced odyssey in April, but enough to keep us relying on God. We were supposed to leave from Catania airport at 8.30pm, but due to fog there where no flights arriving or leaving. After having our flight cancelled and reinstated a couple of times, and the lifting of the fog, we left almost 6 hours late, and finally arrived home at 6am in the morning instead of around midnight. Doing this with two small children kept it more interesting, although I always thank God that they travel so well and they did not complain even once. Stefania and Daniele then slept until almost midday, missing the first day of preschool after the break, but Pinuccia had to go anyway in the afternoon to work, but survived it.

Richard and Pinuccia Wilson  
via Zippel, 5  
38015 Lavis TN, Italy  
Phone: 0461240992  
richard@laparola.net  
<http://richardwilson.interfree.it/>  
*Blog:* <http://richard.laparola.net/>

**For changes to this mailing list  
or for financial support, write to:**

**European Christian Mission**  
**P.O. Box 15**  
**Croydon NSW 2132**  
**(02) 97475446**  
**[ecm.oz@ecmi.org](mailto:ecm.oz@ecmi.org)**



## In the church

In December there were as usual lots of end of year activities, with school Christmas concerts for the other three and concerts with the band for me. In the church, the main activity for us was preparing for the Sunday School Christmas market, raising funds for a school in India. This year we sold food, so whilst one group of children was making biscuits in another location, a group was at our house putting their hand to bread stick making. After a lot of rolling and twirling, and 7 hours of continuous oven operation on a Saturday afternoon, we had about 400 bread sticks in four different varieties. Then on Sunday afternoon it was time to sort out the various types, separate them into packets of 8, pretty up the packets and put labels on them. All good fun and a good time working with others, especially with the children and youth who came.



Daniele and Stefania with a small part of the bread sticks ready to be sold.

The market itself the following Sunday went well, with the children understanding and presenting the needs in other places of the world, and how much they have to be thankful to God for. In fact the depth of their comprehension surprised me at times; I get the feeling that this generation is a lot more socially aware than I was when I was their age. It was a lot of work for a lot of people, and of course Pinuccia had a lot to do supervising everything, whilst I looked after a lot of the practical and technical details, as well as the song that the children sang.

## Upcoming events

*February 8-10:* ECM leaders' meeting at Madrid.

*February 12-13:* weekend on mission in the church.

*February 14:* Meeting for ECM Italy missionaries, that I will be leading.

*February 26:* Youth Group Bible study.



The Saturday afternoon Valsugana Bible study group. Or at least most of it: 3 children and 5 adults are not in the photo because it was difficult to get them all sitting still in the same room at the same time.