

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

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In the church

The past couple of months have been some of the most gratifying of all my ministry in Italy. In a way that is strange, because usually I enjoy doing things, and lately I have been doing a lot less direct ministry in the church. I am personally responsible for only one Bible study group, and a small part of the Sunday School. This is a big change from up to the four groups I have been leading in the past. Instead I have been meeting with leaders and visiting the other eight groups in the church, to encourage and stimulate them. So here are some highlights, with the Valsugana, Trento Tuesday, and Young Adults' groups left out for lack of space:

University:

I mentioned in the previous letter that Fosca had agreed to restart the university ministry, and that I was helping her in this. Since then we hosted a lunch for the university students in the church and the nearest representative of the GBU (the national student ministry), and there have been three meetings at the university. There are about a dozen students who come, Christian and non. I have been helping Fosca a bit to prepare the Bible studies, although with a bit more practice and experience she will be doing them by herself soon.

Trento Saturday:

Angelo, the elder who we sent to lead the church plant at Rovereto, has led this group for a few years, but we want to free him from the group so he can dedicate his time to Rovereto. So this year he is leading with Beatrice, and next year probably will not go any more. But Beatrice needs more help to lead this group, so I have been meeting with her and giving her material to read, to help her to lead the Bible studies. Pray for her development as a small group leader.

International students:

The church has had for a few years a ministry to the international students at the university, which is run in English. In the past it has usually been around half a dozen people, although it has been growing in the last couple of months, and there were 13 there when I went last week, which



The GBU launch lunch at our place: Christian (from another church), Fosca, Jessica, Daniela, Sara, Chris (from GBU Bologna)

was a pleasant surprise. It was good to see, once again, that when there is the need and opportunity to reach out in a new way, that God provides the human resources necessary – an American couple (Nick and Jen) recently moved to Trento. Pray that this group will continue to grow, and be an effective ministry in all the world as the students return to their home country.

Church corner



At her baptism in June

Stefania is a 31 year old single lady. She started coming to the Wednesday Bible Study, and then to church, 1.5 years ago, whilst she was going through a difficult time in her life. Since then she has shown a great desire to learn, and more recently to serve. She has done some small things so far, and we are considering possibilities to mobilise her in a suitable ministry. In the meantime, I have started meeting with her every two weeks to do a personalised discipleship and leadership training course, and we are gradually getting an idea of what she could do in the future to serve God.

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Val di Non:

For many years the group has been composed of just four ladies, some elderly, which made any growth and outreach difficult. But a few months ago two new families joined the group, which has given it new life. So I went there to be encouraged by their commitment, and to spur them on to think big, to have a vision to reach out to their valley, and one day be a church there.

Youth group:

The teenagers are led by Daniela, who helped me last year and took over in September, and Ruben, who has just started to help. I went to their first meeting together, and it was great to see the desire, and the God-given gifts, to serve the teenagers. It made me happy that I was able to leave the leadership of that group, with people more capable of relating to that age group able to take over.

Sunday School:

This is not one of the groups I support, but a ministry that has kept Pinuccia, and to a lesser extent me, busy lately. And a bit pressured and stressed as well. First there was a training day for the Sunday

School teachers, Pinuccia organised although someone came to do for us. Then a couple of weeks ago there was a reunion meeting from last summer's Sunday School camp. Although Pinuccia was not at the camp this year (as we were in Australia) she went to the reunion whilst I stayed home with the children. It went very well, with something both for the church children (who learnt something new about prayer) and for those not from the church (who learnt about the Gospel).

Last weekend there was the annual Sunday School market, selling biscuits and bread sticks

to raise funds for a school in India. So on the Saturday in between, the production lines were at work, with some children making biscuits at one house in one of the valleys, whilst others came to our house to make the bread sticks. I travelled up and down between the two places, ferrying children and supplies, and filming for a video.

At the same time, Pinuccia has been trying to start to get next summer's camp organised, at least to decide when and where it will be, and who will be helping out. It has been difficult to get this done, and in fact it still has not been decided, which has left Pinuccia a bit frustrated. But now with the other events over, it will hopefully be done before the Christmas break.

Points for prayer

- Give thanks for the privilege I have in helping some many dear Christian brothers in their service.
- Pray that God's work will continue to be multiplied as more people are mobilised for more ministries.
- For Pinuccia's leadership of the Sunday School ministry, for God's strength and wisdom to do all that is needed.
- For Stefania as she learns how to serve



Emanuela (from the Youth Group), Beatrice (Saturday group) and Miriam rolling bread sticks.