

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

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With the Christmas and New Year break, and the usual slow down in big activities during the winter, our church ministry since the previous newsletter has mostly been the usual things of leading Bible studies and Sunday School, meeting with individuals, and visiting other groups. Which are important ministries to keep praying for, even if they do not make such good press as most one off events do. So I thought that I would take the opportunity in this newsletter to mention some other things about which I write less often.

On the computer

As most of you know, I manage the main Italian Internet site on the Bible (www.laparola.net), which includes the possibility of downloading a free program that I have written to read and study the Bible in Italian. In the last couple of months I have been using the time that I dedicate to this ministry in a new way, developing a new version of the program for Linux, Macintosh and Android computers - something for which people have been asking me for about 15 years. This means that I have been learning about two development environments and relearning a programming language, but it has been enjoyable as programming is one of my favourite activities. The first beta (which can only display the Bible text) went out just before Christmas, the next version (which can search the Bible for words and phrases) should be ready in a few more weeks. One response that was written on the Facebook page of LaParola:

Let's give thanks to our Lord for this wonderful service.

There is a lot more to this ministry than visiting my site or using my program. More than 1200 people receive a



daily e-mail with four Bible passages, and so read through the whole Bible in a year. Here for example is one e-mail I received:

I read the Bible every night thanks to your mailing list and I am grateful! I had never read it before, except small pieces when I was a child, without understanding anything. How many questions that arise, and how many answers I find! Now I understand. Thank you, I would like to shake your hand and hug you with this e-mail.

I also receive a lot of messages with questions about the Bible, religion, and life in general. Here is an e-mail I received this week, from Ivo:

It has been almost three years that I have been asking you questions and that you have replied to me. Thank you. I wanted to tell you that I have lost not even one of your emails. In fact, I have updated a file every day where I have copied all of your answers after having studied them. I have also added, from time to time, some of my reflections inspired by your explanations. The file now consists of 160 pages!

I think he may have been converted in this long conversation, although it certainly took him about two of those years to understand what salvation by grace through faith means.

Church corner

Daniela is Romanian, and came to Trento with her family just after she finished school. She graduated 2.5 years ago, spent some time working and six months in a Bible school in England, and last September started a Master's course. Last year she helped me with the youth group, during which time I prepared her to take over. She now leads the group with another male leader, and I meet with them and talk with her about how it is going. She also plays the piano in the church services, helps in the church's social-cultural association, and participates in the young adults' and university groups. Which was too much, and she went through a difficult period a couple of months ago, but says now that she has reduced her commitments and has more of a grip on her life. It is a great privilege for me to be involved in her life, and to help her to do something (relate to teenagers) that she can

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In the family

Not having seen Pinuccia's family for a year, we went to Sicily for a couple of weeks during the Christmas school holidays. As usual, most of our time there was spent with friends and relatives, eating a lot and having late nights. The nights certainly disrupted our children's usual life style, although in some ways it did make life a bit easier for me. I tended to go to bed at my usual time, but with the children exhausted and waking up a lot later than usual I could catch up on some rest and sleep in a bit, and still have time to get some work done before the rest of the family woke up.

In the band

Just before Christmas, there was the band's biggest concert of the year. It was a co-production with a local dancing school in the town's indoor sports centre, with more than a hundred performers. Quite a spectacular production. I hope to have more opportunities to evangelise through my contacts with people in the band.

Points for prayer

- For our regular ministry of Bible studies, Sunday School, and meeting people, that we might be a help to others.
- As I develop new versions of the program, pray that God's word will have the effect that he wants it to have, when it is read on more and more devices.
- For Ivo and the many others that ask me questions, for wisdom in replying.
- Give thanks for Daniela's ministry, and pray that she would learn to do only what God wants her to do, and that I would have the right words to encourage her.
- That I would have opportunities to witness in the band, and the boldness to take up those opportunities.
- Give thanks for the rest and good time together as a family that we had in Sicily.



Upcoming events

5 February: Ice skating with the Sunday School children

18 February: Training evening on "missional church" with Tim Chester

17-18 March: Training day for Sunday School teachers, and afternoon for parents on raising children