

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

A lot goes on in the church that I am not directly responsible for, so I don't usually mention it. But I thought it would be good to do it this time.

## Training

One was while studying some church plants like ours, where there are problems finding new leaders in the church. This means that the missionaries have to stay on and do more than what they would like, whereas I have been able to move more and more out of "front line" ministry and into that of supporting leaders. The second time was in February, when there was a training and coordination meeting for all the group leaders – the five Bible study groups, the four "specialized" groups (Youth, Young Adults, university students, English language) and the three Sunday School classes. I was a bit surprised when I counted them all, and arrived at 23 people. And then there is the same number again serving in other ministries in the church: welcoming, preaching, Sunday School assistants, prayer, music, social and cultural ministry, and so on. Half the church (including all the peripheral people) mobilised for ministry in some way.

The third moment was a two hour training conference for the churches of Trento and Rovereto last month. Tim Chester, director of *The Porterbrook Institute*, church planter in Sheffield and author of over a dozen books, spoke to us on

missional church, missional life style and missional leadership. In the last few years we have had other important speakers like Carl Trueman and Louis Priolo. Not a bad line up for a medium sized church in a foreign country for them. This weekend, we are having an Italian come to do some more training, both for the Sunday School teachers and for the parents, on the education of children.

The fourth was visiting the Saturday group recently, and seeing Beatrice lead it—see the "Church corner" for this fruit of our equipping.

## Social and cultural

In January there was the annual general meeting of *Altrimenti*, the social-cultural association run by people in the church. It was good to be able to take a step back and see all that has been done in the past three years. It has worked in overseas aid (Romania and Cameroon), helped refugees and other foreigners in the province, and organised cultural events (conferences and theatre on freedom and human rights, games for people at the street markets), which meant a turnover of more than €10,000 last year. But more than that, it has been a time of making contacts and getting known as a valid association in the local society, not just as a group of evangelicals who want to push their minority view point on other people. So the association is

## Church corner

Beatrice grew up in the Worldwide Church of God, of which her father was one of the leaders in Italy. When that church had a crisis and many became evangelicals, she with her family started attending our church. There was of course a lot of teaching to do to get her to understand a Biblical faith. But she has been growing in her understanding, and also in her love and service of others. She started in the Welcomers' group, then started teaching the Sunday School, and recently started to help leading the Saturday Bible study group. She should be ready to lead it by herself after the summer. She is also our go-to person when we need a good cake for a church event! Unfortunately, her husband Fiorello and daughter Sara (who was a regular attender when we led the Youth Group five years ago) have been going backwards lately, attending rarely and with little interest in following God, which is a burden on Beatrice's heart.



Pinuccia, Beatrice and Miriam cooking bread sticks for the Sunday School

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a member of the provincial forum for peace and human rights, has been approached by the local department for immigration to help it, and is able to request funds from the local government and banks for some of its projects. Jury, the president of the association, said at the general meeting how he gets excited by these possibilities that were out of the question three years ago, and so do I.

## In the family

The children continue to grow well, and it is a joy for us to be a part of their life. Stefania recently received her first report card, and is doing well at school. She has decided that rhythmic gymnastics is her favourite activity. Daniele was complimented by his pre-school teachers for being so helpful. As they grow, it also means more opportunities to go out together as a family, giving them (and sometimes us parents as well) new experiences. Apart from snowman construction, which you can see below, there have also been visits to the local museum, and going ice-skating together.

## Points for prayer

- Thank God for the new leaders who God raises up in the church to grow its ministries, and pray that he will continue to help them and others to lead.
- For *Altrimenti*, that it will have a positive effect on our society.
- For Beatrice as she grows in her ministry, and that Fiorello and Sara will return to the Lord.
- For strength for Pinuccia, as she organizes the Sunday School training, the end of year presentation and the camp, as well as continue with her teaching at the preschool and family time. She often finds it all very tiring.
- For the continual growth of the children, spiritually as well.



## Upcoming events

*17-18 March:* training day for Sunday School teachers, and an afternoon on bringing up children

*22 March:* planning meeting for the children's camp

*14-21 April:* ECM biennial conference for all the family in Spain

*27 May:* baptisms for the churches of Trento and Rovereto

*10 June:* end of year presentation of the Sunday School

*17-21 June:* church children's camp