

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

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In the (new) church

Last Sunday was what could prove to be an historic moment for the church. We have been looking for about five years for a suitable and affordable place to rent, with increasing problems in the council hall that we have been using for more than 20 years. But now the church has decided to rent a place, and to increase its giving to pay for it without taking from our current ministries. The hall is close to the city centre and on a road that a lot of people use, so it is very visible and gives us a real presence at Trento, rather than being in the backstreets of the suburbs. It is in one of the more lively areas of city, where there are a lot of immigrants. Since it is also very close to the room we use as an office, we will also be able to build on the witness that we have had in the area in the last couple of years. If you want to look it up on Google Maps, the address is via Alessandro Manzoni 3, Trento. We will start renting the place at the beginning of June, although we will need to do some work in it, so we do not know yet when we will start using it.

In the mission

We spent the week after Easter in Spain for the biennial ECM conference. It was a good time, although having to look after the children does limit our interaction with the other missionaries. But of course we would not have it any other way! The children had a great time in the children's program, after a bit of unease on their part on the first morning, and it was a privilege for us to be able to leave them with such capable people during this week. They learnt about transforming the peoples of the world (which was the adults' theme as well, although we were limited to Europe), and I have heard some good changes in the way that they express their relationship with God, and what God wants them to do. It was also good for them to renew friendships, especially with the other Australian children. They might have only seen each other once two years ago, but our children had been looking forward for weeks to seeing them again. It will be good to have these peers in the future as well, to build

up these relationships so that they can help each other in their similar situations.

For me, the best part was reflecting on what I and the church do at Trento, looking at the examples of others places in Europe and at the teaching of the Bible on what God's mission for us is, and being challenged to do more and better what God wants us to do. But also being able to thank God for the church, which is already doing a lot of what ECM is moving towards, for example in

Church corner

Nick and Jenn are an American couple, who lived and studied in Holland after their graduation. They then came to Trento 18 months ago where Nick did a Masters course (in real time computer translation of human speech into other languages) and Jenn taught in a private English school. They originally intended to stay only one year, but then decided to stay a further three years, with Nick now doing a Ph.D. and Jenn teaching English in an infants' school. But they really wanted to stay so as to develop the international ministry in the church, having experienced how important it was when they were in Holland. To do this they moved near the university to a larger apartment that they could open up to international students and workers. Every Friday night they offer dinner before a Bible study. It is a very transient population, so there are regularly new people arriving, but also leaving. This ministry has had a very positive effect on the life of the church. Jenn is expecting their first child in July.



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collaborative church planting and integral mission. It has reminded me of how much God has blessed us, with a healthy church and a leadership that is following God's heart for the province of Trentino.

At the university

God is still working at the university in ways we have never experienced before. There are continually new people turning up at the English language Bible study that Nick and Jenn lead - see the "Church corner" for more details. The Italian group had 19 at a meeting recently, which is a long way from the five students that came in the golden days of the group I led. They have also been doing evangelism on campus, and building up relationships between the youth in the different churches at Trento. Fosca, who leads the group, keeps telling wonderful stories of how they meet people who come to the Bible studies. Here is one example from their last meeting:

Yesterday evening, God surprised us in an amazing way. We were in our usual room at 7pm ready to begin the study and had a small dinner together (pizza and pies). There were less people

than usual (which was a bit strange and I felt a bit discouraged) - no non Christians. A few minutes later a new girl [Caterina] came just at the right time for dinner, but the incredible thing is that no one had invited her and not even she knew about the meeting. But she was interested, sat down to eat with us and we began the study on the theme "Justice in human relationships" (Luca 6:27-38). The funny thing is that she is studying law, so it seemed that the study was done especially for her. All of us were speechless for her arrival. This shows us that truly everything depends on God. I think this girl will come to the next meetings and I think that it will be good to start praying for her.

Points for prayer

- Thank God for the new hall. Pray that we will use it wisely, that it will not drain our resources and that we will continue to look out in mission not in to the church.
- For Nick and Jenn, for their ministry to international students and workers, and for the pregnancy.
- For Caterina, as she gets involved in church activities, that she will also get to know God.
- For the preparation of the Sunday School presentation and the camp, which takes a lot of Pinuccia's time and energy.

Upcoming events

13 May: Visit to the church of the Indian mission that the Sunday School supports

27 May: Baptismal service for the churches at Trento and Rovereto

10 June: End of year presentation of the Sunday School

17-21 June: Church children's camp



One of the university meetings. Some people I have mentioned in the past are: Fosca crouching at the left, Jessica standing fourth from the left, Daniela fourth from the right.