

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

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In the church

We are getting used to our new hall, and learning how to make good use of it. Pinuccia and I are especially enjoying having the rooms for the Sunday School, as it makes the classes a lot more enjoyable. As the children start to "personalise" the rooms, they will become places which they feel belong to them, where they learn from the Bible together.

There have also been some special meetings in the new hall, which we have not been able to do in the past. In November there was an outreach to the area of the town where the hall is located, inviting adults and children to come. There was also the church's first mid week Christmas Day service, and a dinner together in our own hall on New Year's Eve. The Young Adults' group appreciate the larger space as well, as they have regular meetings with the youth of other churches, which were very crowded previously.

The hall has been full or almost full most Sundays so far, and once it was not large enough to fit everybody who came, at least not until the children left during the service to go to Sunday School. I think in a couple of months, when the better weather arrives and typically more people come to the services, that the hall will regularly be too small. The leadership of the church is thinking about this possibility, and starting to prepare in case we will have to make changes, without having yet decided what we will do nor when. But whereas the idea up to a year ago was that the next step would be to plant a new church in the Valsugana valley, we are now thinking about starting an evening service. This is partly because we want to maximise our use of the hall, and practically because if we sent some people to form a church elsewhere then we would no longer be able to afford the rent of the hall. The main reason however is that we have seen God working lately mainly in the 13-35 age group, including the Italian and international university groups, and believe that he is leading the church to reach out in that direction now, rather than to the rest of the province. So in the past couple of months we have been doing some training, and both the number of 'welcomers' and of musicians have been doubled. I have also started a course for leading the service, which will go for a couple more months, and which at the end should result in the doubling of the number of service leaders.

On the computer

My new major project that I have been working on – developing versions of my Bible program for Macintosh and iOS – has been making slow progress. Apart from the usual demands of ministry, there have been other small projects that have been taking up my computer ministry time. First I wanted to finish up some matters in my Windows and Android programs, so I could release versions that I could leave alone for a while. Then someone offered to translate my Windows program into Spanish, so I took up that opportunity while I could. I also added the Wisdom books to my list of common questions on the Bible. And I helped someone fix a site for an evangelical association, and this month want to help improve the site of an evangelical publishing site. But I think I am getting close to the stage when I can dedicate good amounts of time to the Apple project, and have got enough understanding of what I have had to learn, to be able to make faster progress now.

In November I exchanged some e-mails with an Italian girl living at Munich, answering some of her questions and encouraging her to visit an international church there, which she said she would do. Towards the end of our conversation, she wrote:

I also wanted to give you my sincere congratulations for all of your site LaParola.net. For me who until a year ago was an atheist and did not know anything about the Bible, it has been a blessing to find this site and all of its explanations.

In Australia

Around the new year we spent three weeks in Australia, for a bit of family time. So it was good to be able to catch up with everybody, and also to get a bit of summer weather after the snow we had been experiencing. It was also a time for imparting some Australian culture to the children, to make them feel at least a bit Australian. So they enjoyed activities like the pool, the zoo, the opera house, mini golf, and improved their English speaking ability a lot. Now we have to quickly recover from our trip back, having got home on Saturday; the rest of the family have to go back to school on Monday, after an extra week of holidays.

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Upcoming events

3-7 March: Meeting for ECM leaders at Madrid

Points for prayer

- Pray that we will continue to make good use of the hall, without being limited by the desire or need to use and maintain it.
- Pray that we would follow God's leading in the direction of the church, especially where we should be reaching out to more.
- Pray for wisdom in deciding which of the many possible projects to concentrate on in my computer ministry.
- Give thanks for the opportunity to visit family in Australia, and for the benefits the children received from it.
- Pray for Andrea and Simona's ministry, that they would grow in their service of the young adults and children.

Church corner

Simona is Pinuccia's cousin, and together with her husband **Andrea** comes from the same town in Sicily. They came to Trento to find work, Andrea as a high school teacher and Simona in a nursery. In the church, Simona teaches the Sunday School class for the smallest children (4-7 years) with Pinuccia and another lady, and Andrea leads the singing in half of the church services. They are also one of the key couples in the Young Adults' ministry, helping with the meetings and spending a lot of time with the other people in the group. The leadership of the church is investing a lot in them as future (and current!) leaders of the church. In fact, Andrea is one of the people doing the course for service leading, and would be a very important part of any evening service that we would decide to do.

