

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

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June marks the end of the school year, and with it the end of the church year. So, we are going to a lot of end of year events and parties, both for the children's school and activities, and for the church. What is keeping Pinuccia and me particularly busy is the preparation for the sixth **church children's camp**, which will be from the 19th to the 23rd of June. However, it will not be very "church" this year, in that of the 21 children, 6 will be from the church at Trento, 6 from Rovereto and other churches, and 9 friends who do not attend an evangelical church. Apart from us, Miriam, Enrica and Ester organise and run the camp. There are also three teenagers (Elisa, Emanuela, Nicole) who will help at the camp, which we see as an opportunity for them to grow in their Christian service. We would really appreciate your help with the camp through your prayers. Pray:

\* for the witness to the non Christian children, and to their families. Most are from the Valsugana valley, where we want to plant a church, and they have had contacts with church people for a long time. Give thanks also for the children who invite their friends;

\* that we five leaders would work together well as a team. We are all different and contribute different styles and abilities so we work better together, although sometimes it creates tension when we don't recognise these differences!

\* that the teenagers will learn how to serve, and will have a good contribution to the camp;

\* for God's protection in all of our activities, and for good weather to be able to do them.

## Sign of the times

For one of my Sunday School lessons (for 11 and 12 year olds), I pulled out my phone so as to read the Bible on it. (I rarely bring my printed Bible because the letters in it keep shrinking.) Then one of the children pulled out her phone, and then another. So three out of four of us were reading the Bible from our phones. While this is getting fairly common in Bible study groups now, I had not experienced it before at Sunday School. Naturally, all three of us were using the program that I had written to read the Bible in Italian on smartphones. So my work to distribute the Bible has now been extended even to pre-teenagers.

## New directions

For Good Friday, there was something new in the church – our first Pakistani/Indian service. This came about through the Pakistani pastor who I mentioned in my previous newsletter. God sent him to Trento as he fled from persecution, and he has been making contacts with the immigrants not only at Trento but also in other parts of Italy. So there were about 45 Asians at the service, from Trento and elsewhere, as well a number of church members who wanted to participate. This sort of ministry was certainly not in our vision a year ago, nor how we thought that the new premises would be used when we decided to start renting it, but it is exciting to see how God leads us and uses us if we make everything – including ourselves – available to him.

## Upcoming events

*9 June:* Sunday School end of year recital – more work for us organising this

*16 June:* baptismal service for 7 people

*19-23 June:* children's camp

*July-August:* a few weeks in Sicily with Pinuccia's family

*19-22 August:* ECM Italy Prayer Days



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### Points for prayer

- For the camp and the children.
- That more people will read the Bible as I distribute it on ever more platforms. And not only read it, but be transformed by it.
- That the church will follow God's leading as we seek the best ways to glorify him at Trento and beyond.
- For Massimo and Ester, with Nicole and Samuel, that God would continue to use them for his glory and a church in the Valsugana valley.
- For those who will be baptized in June, that God will keep and protect them.
- For Stefania and Daniele during the 3 month summer break (and for us!), and that they will continue to grow in their relationship with God.

## Church corner

All of the people who will be helping with the camp have been mentioned in previous newsletters, except two. **Ester** grew up in an evangelical home in the Valsugana valley. She comes from what was probably the only evangelical family in the province of Trento for most of the last century. **Massimo** came from Rimini to work as a pizza cook in a hotel in the mountains, where he met Ester. Through her witness he became a Christian. Their marriage was the first Italian wedding I went to, a few months after I arrived at Trento. They have two children, **Nicole** (15) and **Samuel** (12 - in my Sunday School class the last few years). I handed over the leadership of the Valsugana Bible study group to Massimo (and Jury) eight years ago, and he has faithfully led the group since then, as well as being a deacon in the church. Ester is a great evangelist and pray-er, with a real love for people and for Jesus that makes her share in a faith in an area where there is still opposition to anything not Catholic. If one day there will be an evangelical church in the Valsugana, it will be largely due to them. Ester is also one of the few people with MS in which the disease has gone backwards – usually not possible except with a lot of prayer! In many ways, Ester is the opposite of me, and when we work together organising the camp or other things, sparks tend to fly as we get frustrated with how the other person thinks. But I would not have it any other way, and the camp – and my life – would be impoverished without her. I thank God for what he has done in the life of Ester and her family, and how he has used them for his glory in the Valsugana.

