

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

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Helping a church plant new churches and start new ministries in Trento, Italy

In the church

As the church grows, we need to continually look at our structures. So the leadership of the church has been talking about what changes are best given that our hall is already becoming small, and our elder needs more support, without yet coming to a conclusion. One decision that has been made is to relaunch the small group ministry. They will all become "mission groups", with a primary mission in discipleship, music, training, evangelism, church planting, prayer, or other, although always with a base of Bible and prayer. My responsibility over the next few months will be to oversee this change, and I will be leading some new groups after the summer.

One of Pinuccia's dreams is to run an after school club for children. At the moment, she is organising, together with some other people, a children's evangelistic event for Easter Saturday. This would be for the children in the church, but also their friends, and children in the area around the church hall. The plan is to do more such meetings in an irregular way in the future, and maybe further down the track more regular

meetings. Pinuccia is also busy helping to organise the children's camp in July. We will not be able to participate this year, but Pinuccia is working together with those who will be running it, and giving me work to do to help prepare it as well.

An e-mail I received recently:

Hi, I'm Carla and I'm writing to you to say "thanks" for having given me the possibility to read the "Word of God" every day, it was something that I wanted to do but was not doing. God bless you, together with your family.

Aakash, the Pakistani student who I mentioned last newsletter, continues to come to church and the English Bible study, and is working on overcoming the difficulties he had in his life in the past. The church continues to support the persecuted church, especially in Pakistan from where God sends us people to help. Last week Latif (who was a pastor in Pakistan until forced to leave the country) and Nick (who leads the English Bible study group) spoke at the United Nations at Geneva on religious liberty in Pakistan and how Italy treats refugees. A few days early, Ayub, another religious refugee from Pakistan, where he has had to leave his family, had his son kidnapped, and he still does not know where he is.

In Australia

It is time for us to come to Australia, to talk about what God has been doing at Trento and to help you pray for us and partner with us better. We will be arriving on June 5th, although we will be spending time with family until the 24th. But from then until August 19th, when we return to Italy, we would like to visit as many churches, groups, and people as we can. If you are interested, write to me to book a date – there is not much time and a lot of places to go to.



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In the family

To follow up on some points in my last newsletter:

Daniele is happy to wear his back brace. Since his favourite animal is the turtle, he is proud to be able to wear his own shell! Last weekend he participated in his second chess tournament, with his first win. But what made us happiest was when in his physical education class at school, the teacher decided to have games with balloons. However, Daniele has a phobia about balloons, because they might explode. So he just sat in the corner of the gym without playing, but told us that he prayed to Jesus to help him. And in fact despite more than 20 children playing with lots of balloons, not one burst the whole time.

In the meantime, Stefania has been diagnosed with dysgraphia (bad hand writing). Despite a quite a few tests, the educational specialists have not found the cause. So she will have some more tests. It makes me grateful to be in a country like Italy – most missionaries have to return for

health problems, whereas we get excellent health care, even for minor problems, and completely free.

Pinuccia's nephew who was in a coma after a motor bike accident is now at home and a lot better, although still with some gaps in his memory. Since Pinuccia was feeling the distance from her family, especially with a number of problems in the last few months, and we will not be going there this summer, she took the opportunity of her niece's 18th birthday party to fly there for three days. It did her a lot of good to have a very full time with her family and friends, and I'm sure that she did a lot of good for them as well.

Points for prayer

- For the leaders of the church as they reflect on how the church can best fulfil God's mission for it
- For the children's meeting, and that there will be more such meetings
- For the ministry that God has given us for our Pakistani brothers
- For our preparations for travelling to Australia
- For the physical and spiritual growth of Stefania and Daniele, and our growth as parents

Upcoming events

April 5-12: ECM biennial conference (including our 10th anniversary celebration, appropriate since half of our honeymoon was at an ECM conference)

April 18: church service for the Pakistan and Indian communities

April 19: evangelistic event for children

May 24: second church leaders' retreat

May 25: Sunday School end of year presentation

June 3: departure for Australia