

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

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

Surprise

It is hard to know how to lead up to this gently, so I'll say it straight out: Pinuccia is pregnant. She is currently at the end of her third month, with the birth due in November. The last few weeks have been hard for her, with all the usual symptoms, and we **pray that she will be able to live a healthy pregnancy**. We are **thankful that God has provided Pinuccia's niece** from Sicily, who has been staying with us since the beginning of the year as she looks for work, and has been taking care of us when Pinuccia is out of action and helping us with babysitting.

It will feel a bit strange, as that stage in life seems a long time ago. Also, a seven year difference between Daniele and the next will make for different family dynamics. We will also have to try to find all the baby accessories that we have given away in the past few years. Another unusual factor is our age. I will be 51, when friends my age are a lot closer to becoming grandparents than parents. Pinuccia at 46 also has a larger risk for the pregnancy at her age. **Pray as we get our heads around these changes and what they mean for our life and ministry, and for God's protection and strength.**

Stefania and Daniele are overjoyed at having a baby to play with. They have been working on names, how to change the bedrooms, what they need to teach, and so on. They had an interesting conversation whilst we were at the first gynaecologist appointment, when they did not yet know about the pregnancy. Pinuccia's niece told us that Daniele said that he wanted a little brother to play with, and so the boys would outnumber the girls. Stefania replied that it was not possible, mummy was too old. Daniele then said that he could pray, and God could do it. Stefania insisted that mummy was too old, but Daniele said that if God could make all the balloons not pop [see newsletter 87] he could give mummy a baby. I don't know if Daniele was praying for this back in February, but if so we know who to thank!

Church corner

Ruben grew up in an evangelical family in the south of Italy, *Sandra* in an Italian family in Germany. Like a lot of people in the church, they ended up at Trento as the best place to find work, arriving almost eight years ago. After a few years moving around the province following annual contracts, they have settled the Valsugana. Ruben is an English teacher in a high school in the Val di Non (in the other direction from Trento), and Sandra a German teacher in primary schools. They have two children, Martin (6 years old) and Sofia (3). For the past couple of years Ruben has been running the youth group for teenagers (with whom he naturally forms good relationships), and is also involved in the music team. Sandra is one of the teachers of the 4-6 year old Sunday School class, and with her background offers a good different perspective and style to the other teachers in the team. I would like you to **pray especially for Ruben in his role at the children's camp** in July. He will be the main male leader, which I know from experience is a tough job trying to help all the boys on the camp! He will also be doing the lessons on the life of Joseph, connecting them with the theme of survival. Mainly surviving by faith in difficult circumstances, but also practical survival skills—being in an isolated building in the middle the woods 1400 metres up in the Alps will help for that theme!



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Surprises

I thought I would at least lead up to this part gently, after the first big surprise. At the first gynaecologist appointment, we discovered to our *really* great surprise, that Pinuccia is in fact expecting twins. One child would have changed our life style, taking us back 7 years, but we could have fit him or her in. Two will require some serious changes and upsizing. On the other hand, it means that one child will not be forced to fit into the lifestyle of the older children, rather we will have two child upbringings at the same time, each of two children. Since they are identical twins, Stefania and Daniele will not get their wish of having one of each sex, rather one of them is going to be very much outnumbered.

This of course adds some extra problems to the pregnancy. Pinuccia is not a big girl (to say the least!), and so a normal belly for her seems really big, and overbalances her. With two, it will be interesting to see her... There are also different types of twins. In Pinuccia's case, they share the same

placenta, which means that as well as all the other risk factors like age, size and twins, there are some extra risks due to this type of pregnancies, of blood and nutritional not being shared equally. However, at the hospital at Trento there is a specialist unit for multiple births, so Pinuccia will be well looked after.

The unpleasant surprise, as a result of all this, is that we have to postpone our trip to Australia, which should have been from June to August. With just one child, we thought we could still make it. With a normal twin birth, it might just have been possible. However, Pinuccia in this pregnancy will need check-ups every two weeks instead of the usual every two-three months, to react quickly to any problems in the blood supply. So Australia will have to wait for another time, although we have not decided when yet.

Upcoming events

May-June: lots of medical appointments for Pinuccia, Stefania and Daniele, plus many end of school year activities

May 24: Church training on interpersonal relationships

May 25: End of school year Sunday School presentation

July 6-13: annual children's camp

Points for prayer

- For a healthy pregnancy, that Pinuccia and the twins stay well.
- That all four of us will adjust to the new circumstances, and I find a balance between ministry in church, in the mission, on the computer, and in the family
- That God will continue to use our church to help the people from Pakistan that he brings our way.
- For the children's camp: we will be more involved in the organising since we are not going to Australia, but not participating.
- For Ruben and Sandra and their family and ministries.
- For our prayer and financial support, that needs to grow together with the family.