

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

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

In the family

We have not been very good lately at carrying through our plans. This is not necessarily a bad thing, it reminds us that we are not in control and that God knows (and brings about) the future better than we do. First there was our deputation visit to Australia that was cancelled. Then just after I sent my last newsletter my mother had some serious health problems, and my plans were a day by day proposition. In the end, I did end up going to Australia, taking advantage of the plane ticket I had not yet cancelled, but by myself and just for two weeks, to spend some time with my family there. I'm thankful to God for this opportunity to go, that Pinuccia was feeling better and able to look after the family in my absence, and especially that my mother is a lot better, better even than what the doctors thought possible.

Whilst I was in Australia, the three months of school holidays started. This means that my church commitments and the children's normal activities are much less, and there will be a lot more time to do special things with Stefania and Daniele. It will certainly be a special summer for us, as every other summer we go to either Sicily or Australia. But this time we can not go far away, due to Pinuccia's fortnightly check-ups. At her check up whilst I was away, we also found out that we are expecting two boys. Daniele did a dance for 10 minutes when he found out, as it was what he really wanted.



In the church

In the meantime, there have been a lot of events in the church, as is normal for the end of the school year. There was a training day on dealing with conflict, the end of year Sunday School presentation, a pizza night hosted by one of the church families, and an excursion to the zoo for the children (and parents).

Last Saturday the Kids' Club, our evangelistic program for children, went public yesterday for its second event. We set up in a large park next to a lake in one of the valleys, where a lot of families go in summer to get some relief from the heat. The weather was not as good as it could have



Daniele and Pinuccia (at right) watching Kids' Club.

been for this period, so there were not as many people there as we expected. On the other hand, a few invited friends came along, including one who wanted us to repeat the program in her town in the mountains. One of the highlights was seeing some teenagers dancing along with us in the playground – they were too old for the activities of the program, but the music was reaching them anyway. I'm also thankful for the creativity, courage, and service of the Kids' Club organisers. Now it is time to think about the third edition of Kids' Club, which will probably be after the summer.

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As well as the end of year events, we are thinking about the activities that will be restarting in September after the summer break. I am working on some changes for the small groups, which is one of my main responsibilities in the church. In one sense, we will be adapting to the changes that have already taken place, following where God has been moving us as a church. What we have seen is that the classical Bible study and prayer groups have been struggling for the last couple of years, whereas once they were the strength of the church. What are flourishing instead are the special interest groups, whether by demographics (for example young adults and English language for foreigners) or for particular ministries (for example prayer and music). So we want to encourage and help and interact with these new groups more. This means that there will not be big structural changes in the church – they have already taken place without our planning it – but we want to change the philosophy of the groups and how they are perceived. They will all become "mission groups", based on the Bible and prayer (but the time dedicated to them would vary between the groups) and with a particular mission. It might be

discipleship (of oneself and others – the old Bible study groups), church planting (in the valleys), training, reaching out to young adults, teenagers, or foreigners, music (for the church and for witness), or prayer. Then in September we will not ask people what group they want to belong to, but what mission from God they want to be involved in with others from the church. All these groups already exist; the major organisational change will be that there will be an evangelism group, to do it, plan it, and help the rest of the church to do it. As often with the new groups, I will be starting and leading it, then looking and training a leader to take over in my place.

Upcoming events

6-13 July: the church children's camp, which we will not be going to this time, but I continue to help organise it, and will go to visit and help a few times

20 July: two baptisms at Rovereto

Points for prayer

- Give thanks that my quick trip to Australia was possible.
- Pray for the health of the boys, Pinuccia and my mother.
- Give thanks for the commitment of many church members to the Kids' Club. Pray that it will continue, and that the new evangelism group will be able to create other new outreaches.
- For safety and a clear presentation of the Gospel at the children's camp.
- That the new philosophy of the groups will help the church members in the mission for which God has prepared them.