

In the church

This year in the Sunday School class that I help to teach (11-13 year olds) we are looking at the parables of Jesus. The first one we read was the parable of the sower, as it is about all the parables. We thought about how we could remember it, and bear fruit, and thought of teaching it to others. So after a few weeks of preparation, a few weeks ago the class taught it to the class of smaller children (3-6 year olds), acting it out with a script they made themselves and using a song they wrote themselves. And it seemed to stick in the smaller children's minds. It was not just an opportunity to pass on what had been learned, but also to learn how to do Christian ministry, relying of Jesus' word and work and not our own capabilities, and praying a lot. This was one of my favourite lessons for a long time, because what I want to do most in the church is train others in ministry, so that I can be free to do other things. And

I have discovered that I can do it with pre-adolescents as well, training and giving them experience in ministry. Maybe in a few more years there will be lots of new Sunday School teachers, and I can move to other ministries!

On the computer

A few weeks ago I received a message from someone I have exchanged many e-mails with over the years, answering questions and seeing his life change:

Greetings from Rome and thank you for the time that you've always spent for me. My marriage is fine and my daughter is growing cheerfully in a serene environment. Only six years ago I was very far from having a family. Then... all of a sudden a subtle desire to change my life that coincided with some "random" meetings that were fundamental for my existence. You were a decisive encounter.



Alessandro, Giorgia, Gioia and Gaia leading the singing. Gioia (and her mother) have only been coming a few months; they got to know the church through the summer children's camps.



The smaller children responding to the song leading.

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In the family

Pinuccia's parents are staying with us at the moment, for three weeks. This has been a great relief for us – we were getting a bit desperate and stressed out looking after the family a few weeks ago. But it has been great not to think about the housework, take and pick up the children from school, constantly feed the twins, etc. It means I have been able to do more than the minimal amount of work that I need to do, and especially make a lot of progress in some of my computer ministry projects. Pinuccia has been able to study for the qualifying exam for her job next month. Her parents will be greatly missed!



Points for prayer and thanksgiving

- For the children in the Sunday School, that they will be faithful servants of God not only in the future, but also now.
- Continue to pray for the preparation of the two children's camps.
- For wisdom as I reply to various e-mail questions I receive, and that they will have a positive effect on people.
- For Pinuccia's parents' help in this period, and pray for strength and endurance for us, and the understanding what God wants us to do and not do in this period.
- For Pinuccia's study for her exam.
- For the children's physical, social, and spiritual growth.

Luca and Mattia are growing well—almost too fast says the doctor. They are starting to respond to what we do and to make sounds. Pinuccia is convinced that they say “mamma”, but I think she hears what she wants to hear.



The older children are enjoying their several activities—handball and chess for Daniele, modern dance, theatre and flugelhorn/clarinet for Stefania.

Upcoming events

27-28 April: Easter concerts by the musicians of the church, first in a coffee shop and second in church

3 April: Pakistan church service