

Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania, Daniele, Luca, Mattia

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

In the church

At the beginning of the month there was the "reboot" of the children's camp ministry. Whilst the existing group of leaders and children – who are now all teenagers or almost - continue in July with their eighth camp, I worked with a new group of leaders and with the next generation of children, from 6 to 9 years old (including Stefania and Daniele). There were 10 children for 3 days; the idea is to grow the camp in the following years, growing new leaders as well. Outwardly, it went well, with just the usual conflicts between children, which often gave better opportunities for teaching than the formal lessons did. It is of course harder to say what was going on inwardly, but we trust God that he will bring out the fruit of this camp over the next 70 or so years of their lives. The children certainly enjoyed themselves and are already looking forward to next year. Their major complaint about the camp was that it was too short!

The public evangelism of the church is continuing to grow. The Kids Club, the church's evangelistic program for children, was present at a festival at Lavis, the town where we (and quite a few church members) live. It was good for the people in town to see Pinuccia and me in another context, so we could explain who we are and what we are doing. The town council was very happy for us to be doing this, and future activities, so it is good to have their support as well. This weekend there is another festival in the part of Trento where the church hall is. Now that the church is known a bit better there, we are collaborating with other associations for some activities, and they are using our hall for part of the program. At Easter there were also two evangelistic concerts by our musicians, one in a coffee shop and one in church, plus a church service for people from Pakistan.

On the computer

I receive quite a few e-mail messages with different sorts of requests, because of my site about the Bible. However, I never know anything about the person, nor what is really behind the question, so I have to answer as best I can. Recently a certain Francesco asked me to come to give him a Bible. I don't usually send or give away printed Bibles, but he was insistent. He lives in a city near Naples, and I found an evangelical church not too far away and wrote to the church to ask if they could deliver a Bible to this person. However, when they rang to find a good time to come to bring the Bible, they discovered that he is only seven years old, and his mother (who had answered the phone) asked them to not bring the Bible. This was certainly not what I was expecting when I read and replied to Francesco's message, although the poor Italian was a clue. And I still do not know what is really behind the request, such as why he is so insistent in asking for a Bible and why his mother will not let him have one. But we can certainly pray for him, as God is obviously acting in some way in his life.

In the family

A recent family highlight was getting back the results of Daniele's radiography. His spine, which 18 months ago was quite badly both bent and twisted, now shows no sign of problems. So he will be having a break from his back brace that he has been wearing for more than a year, at least until August when he will have his next check up. Since it is very uncomfortable to wear in summer, it was good timing. We are very thankful to God for this unexpected development. Another highlight for him was coming second in the provincial male U8 chess championship. He qualified for the national championships in summer, but will have to miss them due to our travel plans.

Pinuccia has been studying a lot for her exam for a permanent teaching position. The preliminary exam (to reduce the applicants for the 60 positions from 1500 to 120) is on May 21. The dates for the written and oral exams for those who pass the preliminary exam have still not been announced, which makes planning the summer difficult for us and for everybody else.



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Luca and Mattia are growing well and are very peaceful. However, they take up a lot of our time and energy. We are surviving, but are struggling and overwhelmed at times just to do what God has given us to do (look after the family), let alone what we would like to do (ministry, studying, rest, ...). We are grateful for Pinuccia's parents who visited us for 3 weeks in March, and our niece who comes for a couple of hours most mornings. Without them Pinuccia would not be able to do any study, and I would not have been able to much at all in church. As it is, the Internet ministry is in maintenance mode at the moment, and I am able to do little that is new.



In Australia

With our limited ability to predict and control our future, we still do not know when we will be coming to Australia (a trip which we already postponed last year) because of the doubts about if and when Pinuccia will be doing the exams. But we are relatively sure that we will be in

Australia for July and up to August 17, and will be available for meetings in that period. We will try to come sometime in the second half of June, depending upon what happens in the rest of May.

If you would like us to visit your church, group, or individually, let us know as soon as you can, so we can start to make a program for our time in Australia. In the meantime, if anyone can lend us a couple of cots, strollers, high chairs, four children's car seats, or a car with at least six places, please get in contact with us.



Tourists for the day at Venice

Points for prayer and thanksgiving

- Give thanks for the success of the children's camp, and pray for the children.
- For the public evangelism of the church.
- For God's work in Francesco.
- For Daniele's back.
- For Pinuccia's study and exam.
- For strength and perseverance for us looking after the family.
- For the preparation and planning of our trip to Australia.

Upcoming events

- 16 May: Town festival
- 21 May: Pinuccia's exam
- 14 June: Sunday School end of year presentation
- 15-28 June (?): Leave for Australia
- 5-12 July: Teenagers' camp (11-15 years)