

### Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania, Daniele, Luca, Mattia

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

#### In Australia

Our time in Australia was rather intense. With only two months instead of the usual three, the various meetings we had to speak at were close together, although we did manage to fit them all in. However, we were not able to do as much as a family as normal. For example this time we could visit my relatives in Queensland, including my grandmother who turns 100 next month. It did not help that Stefania came out with chicken pox the day we arrived, and the three boys caught it a couple of weeks later. Thus we were in quarantine during the time in which we were free to be tourists.

I felt that the meetings generally went well, with good opportunities to encourage people to trust God in all circumstances, to renew and build up relationships with supporters (half of my churches had new pastors), and to thank them for their partnership. Every time I am on furlough there is an unexpected opportunity, and this time it was to go to Melbourne for a weekend to speak at an Italian church that one of Pinuccia's cousin attends. It was also good to speak to a church with many university students (still the demographic group most in my heart) and young adults about how God is preparing them now just as he prepared me 30 years ago for the computer ministry I have now; and, in another church, just before the visioning meeting where they could apply what I had said.

Personally, it was a helpful time for me as well. When I sat down two months ago to think over the last four years, and how I could condense it into a message of 5 or 10 or 60 minutes, I realised how much God had done in the church and in my life, that I don't see when I am in the middle of it week after week. It came at the end of a difficult and frustrating year for us, with a lot of tiredness looking after the family and a desire to be doing more church and



computer ministry that the ministry to the family did not allow us to do. Having to talk about what God **had** done and how he had used us and the church for his purposes (which were not always clear at the time and in some ways still are not). rather than for my purposes, renewed my vision and desire to be involved in his work. For me, this meant especially in the children's ministry (Sunday School and camps), which had never been a high priority. But now I can see at least four ways that God used to bring me into this ministry—including having my own children! It was what did produce the most fruit and joy in my ministry over the past year, but I realised only as I looked back.

#### In the church

Of course, life went on in Italy. When we returned, there were three new pregnancies, two families getting ready to move away, and another Pakistan refugee who had just arrived at Trento. On the other hand, not much had happened in the church as a whole, with most activities having a break for the summer. The exception was the annual children's camp at the beginning of July. The organisers tell me that it went very well, with a couple of children from the church recommitting themselves to God, and a couple not from the church deciding to follow him for the first time. They were obviously very excited at it all.

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## In the family

Pinuccia was offered a part time job (which is good) at Lavis (also good) in the early afternoon. Her first job offer was in the late afternoon, which would have meant not having much time with the children, and problems with the after school activities. This job at Lavis will make life much easier and the family much happier, although it will still be a lot of work getting everybody to the right place at the right time.

Pinuccia starts work on September 1, and the same day Luca and Mattia will be starting nursery (from 8.30am to 1.30pm weekdays). Another one of Pinuccia's cousins, Simona, is at the nursery, and she would have been their teacher. But one of the pregnancies in the church was hers and she will be on maternity leave, so that did not work out as expected! Stefania and Daniele will begin school on the 10th (5th and 3rd class respectively). So life will be settling down in the second half of September, when I will have at least the mornings free to do some uninterrupted work.

## Points for prayer and thanksgiving

- For our time in Australia: growth in family, recharging for ministry, relationships with churches
- For the children who made a commitment at the camp (Emma, Samuel, Alessandro, Martino) and for the others that attended.
- For Pinuccia's almost perfect job this year.
- For the new school year for the children.
- For our ministries in the Sunday School and in the small groups that we will be starting shortly.
- That I can find the right balance between family, church ministry, computer work, ECM responsibilities, activities to know people outside the church, etc.



Celebrating Daniele's once in a life time day:  
8th birthday on the 8th of the 8th.

## Upcoming events

*4-6 September:* ECM-Italy prayer days

*12 November:* meeting for some ECM country leaders in England – my in-laws will be visiting then so I am hoping to make it

*30 November-3 December:* meeting for all ECM country leaders in Spain – I don't know yet if I will be able to leave Pinuccia with the children for that time