

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

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There is a new layout of my newsletter, to celebrate the 25th anniversary edition! It is also symbolic of a renewal and restart of my ministry at Trento. It is not that I am doing something different now, but starting again, as though I was going back to the beginning.

On September 16, 1992 I arrived in Italy as a young missionary, principally to work on a Christian witness at the university at Trento. Almost exactly the same day in 2017, three young missionaries (Brant and Kara, and Taylor, all Americans) have arrived to work on a Christian witness at the university in Trento. They have actually been in Italy for a couple of years already, doing language and culture work in Rome with their mission, and have been preparing to come to Trento for the last year. My role will be to meet with them, to help, advise, and encourage them in this ministry, and be the connection with church. Who knows? Maybe I will end up doing something at the university myself once again! This ministry has always remained in my heart even after I stopped doing it directly almost 14 years ago, so I am happy to be able to renew my ministry, taking it back to its roots.

This means that there are now more than a dozen missionaries in the Trento church, the exact number depending upon how "missionary" is defined. Apart from Pinuccia and myself and these three, there are: **Christof** from Germany, who is developing a sports ministry. However for the last couple of years he has been teaching German in a primary school, which gives him other opportunities for ministry (for example a summer holiday activity at his school) but less free time for ministry in the church.

Ruben and Mary from Brazil, who work for a Brazilian mission that helps persecuted Christians (MORE International). They are helping the church to develop its ministry to refugees, but also have a wider ministry in Italy and Europe.

Gabriel and Carolina, and **Edilberto and Pricila** from Brazil, and **Weston** from America, who are in training with MORE, working with Ruben and Mary whilst learning language and culture; they are part of the church but do not have a ministry in it.

Stéphane from France, and who was the pastor of a church in England. With his Italian wife Stefania, they moved to Italy to help the church in this country, and ended up at Trento where Stefania found work. He still does not have a regular paid job, but has a lot of time, experience, and spiritual maturity to serve in the church in various ways, and in some ways acts as a missionary there.

Latif, who was the pastor of a church in Pakistan before having to flee, and the first of the refugees to arrive in our church. As well as attending our church with his family, helping a lot the refugees in the church, he leads a group of Christians from India and Pakistan on Saturday afternoons, and visits various ethnic churches in Italy with people from the sub continent.

Normally such a high number of missionaries in a church would be a problem, as they would limit the possibilities of the local believers to grow in ministry. However, that has not been the case at Trento, mostly due to our vision of church life of encouraging people to develop the ministry that they believe God is calling them to. This has the disadvantage of creating a dispersed church, as the different members are doing lots of different things, rather than everyone working together on only a few ministries. It does however make the church attractive to missionaries, as they are free to develop a new ministry in and with the support of a local church, without taking opportunities away from it. Rather, new opportunities for ministry are created in the church. The missionaries work under the guidance of the Italian leadership of the church, and it is a good sign that five of the six members of the church council were either converted or received almost all their ministry training in the church. (The other is a younger Italian who moved to Trento a few years ago.) So there are no missionaries in the church council, although Stéphane and I are invited to attend as observers to give some advice, and I act as secretary.

In the family

This is the third of eight consecutive years in which at least one of our children starts a new school. This year it is Luca and Mattia's turn, as they begin their three years of preschool. Stefania will be doing her second year of middle school (Year 7 in Australia), and Daniele the fifth and final year of elementary school. Since Daniele has difficulty learning in a classroom setting (due to his Asperger's syndrome), his class will have a support teacher this year. Shee will be mainly helping Daniele, but also some of the other children in the class. We hope that this will improve his time at school; we are also working on other ways to help his other living skills. Pinuccia has a job this year at the same preschool as last year, that is in our town. (Mattia and Luca are in the other preschool of the town.) Her hours work out well for her to be able to spend time with the family.

In August we visited Sicily – an opportunity to spend some time with the wider family, and to broaden our horizons a bit. Stefania and Daniele went to the children's camp of the church there for a week. We were not sure how it would go, as they have not been away from us before, and self-organisation is not one of their strong points. (Asperger again.) We were proud of them that they did stay, participate, and enjoy the whole time. It helped that their cousin and her boyfriend were amongst the leaders, and had been charged with taking special care of them! In the end, it was Pinuccia who was more homesick for them than they of us.

Whilst Stefania was at the camp, one of the other children asked her if it was her father who had developed the LaParola site and apps. So I am known even by children 1500km from home, and Stefania cannot escape from being identified as my daughter! Having a strange surname does not help.

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across Europe

We are serving with **European Christian Mission (ECM)**. ECM is an interdenominational mission that partners with local churches to send gospel workers to Europe. ECM's overarching purpose is to glorify God through **evangelism, discipleship, and church planting** all across Europe.

If you would like to find out ways you can partner with ECM through praying, serving, or giving, please contact our office.

How to give to ECM:

Cheques and money orders: payable to European Christian Mission

Direct Deposit: NAB, Australia, BSB 082171, account 509197512

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Prayer and thanksgiving points

- For the privilege of serving at Trento for 25 years, and for God to use me for many more years.
- For the renewed university ministry, and that I can be a help there.
- For the witness at Trento in the occasion of the anniversary of the Reformation.
- That the children will become and mature as disciples of Christ.
- That I can be a help to other missionaries in Italy and Europe, through my leadership responsibilities in ECM.

Upcoming events

23 Settembre: Celebration of 10 years of the children's camps, with all the participants invited

24-27 October: meetings in Spain for two groups of leaders of ECM to which I belong.

23-29 October: a week of special events to remember the 500th anniversary of the 95 thesis. We think it is appropriate to do this in the city of the Council of Trent, that rejected the teachings of the Reformation.

29 November-2 December: meetings in Germany for most of the leaders of ECM.




*Sharing Christ's love
in Europe*

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