

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

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In the church

It takes time to do things in Italy. Two and a half years after buying the hall, almost two years since moving in, and the church now has the all clear from the town council. We can use it! The bureaucratic permission means that we can be more open about our existence, like putting a sign over the door. Even better, there is a group in the congregation working on how to use the hall to serve the people in the neighbourhood. This is something we have struggled with in the past, basically because people are so well looked after by the government and by volunteers—there are 40 associations helping people in the area of the church! This has made it difficult to work out what we as a church can do to serve the community. But maybe we have found something, that at least has started well. Once a month on a Friday afternoon we open the hall, with craft and other activities for children. The first time 8 children from outside the church came (already way more than our expectations based on previous experiences); the second time all returned as well as four new children.



Pricila and Mary helping the children.

Maddalena, one of the organisers, reported:

Apart from the good numerical participation, there was a good atmosphere. When the activity finished, the people remained and there was an opportunity for conversation (for the adults) and to play (for the children). As well as the mothers, a couple of grandparents came, and a few fathers joined their wives and then they stayed on. The participants were really happy and openly expressed their appreciation. It was also great to see the involvement of other people of the church.

On the computer

I am still getting a lot done in my computer ministry on my "sabbatical leave" from leading and preparing a Bible study group in the church. Recently I finally completed an app for Windows Phone. This means that I now have and distribute computer programs to read and study the Bible in Italian for three operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux) and apps for three mobile operating systems (Android, iOS, Windows Phone), as well as the web site. Keeping them all up-to-date with technological changes and adding new features is a bit of a time challenge, but I do what I can.

In the family

We seem to have been visiting doctors a bit more recently, although probably about as much as a normal family. Even I have been using the health care system, with an operation a couple of weeks ago to straighten the partition in my nose, which somehow had gotten deviated and made breathing less efficient. I had a very quick recovery, although I have had to give up clarinet playing for a month and so miss some concerts with the band. Daniele got three micro fractures in his foot when breakdancing and was on crutches for three weeks in December. Then there are the usual teeth and eye appointments. Daniele is continuing with his appointments for his difficulties (working on hand writing at the moment), and next month Luca and Mattia will be evaluated for the similar problems that they are manifesting. As always, I am thankful to be in a place where we (especially children) are well looked after. There are no serious problems, but the health care system wants people to be as well as they can be.

After a lot of mind changing, Stefania has decided on what high school she will attend from September. The school specialises in art and is in fact the closest high school to where we live, just a 10 minute bus ride away. After two years, she will need to choose what to specialise in (video production and architecture are currently the front runners), although she could also decide to change school completely if other interests take over. She currently likes computer programming and psychology, which are studied at other schools.

Upcoming events

15-19 April: ECM Australia retreat – only Richard will be going, as Stefania will have important exams then
25-26 April: ECM Italy meeting, to pray and think about our future together

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Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Give thanks that the church has finally finished all the paperwork for the hall, and pray that we will use it well.
- Pray that the church will grow good relationships with those who live in the neighbourhood of the hall.
- Pray for the programs and apps that are downloaded, that they will help people to know and follow the Bible.
- Give thanks for the help the family receives for their health and other problems.
- Pray for the children's growth and maturity, physically, socially, and spiritually.
- Pray that Richard will be a help to the other missionaries in ECM through his various responsibilities and meetings in the mission.




*Sharing Christ's love
in Europe*

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