

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN TRENTO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca and Mattia

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This newsletter is a bit later than it should have been, because I have been waiting to know how life and ministry will be in this new school/church year, after the summer break. I do have a better idea now even though there are a lot of unknown details, which is of course normal for everybody these days.

In the church

The church is getting ready to restart its activities after the summer break, which will happen in the third week of September. Doing church will still be greatly different from a year ago, of course, but it will also be different to how it was before the summer break.

The services will continue to be both in the hall and simultaneously broadcast on Internet. Although we can have 60 people in the hall (about half the capacity and usual number who were attending), there have usually been about 40 present in the services since we have been able to meet again. This is partly because there are no activities for the children, so most families have not been coming. But there has also been some fear of going out again, some laziness having got accustomed to not going to church, and some loss of interest. In other words, there have been spiritual hindrances as well as practical or health problems.

Next week the Sunday School teachers will be meeting to decide what form the Sunday School will have, based on the current restrictions on what form it can have. It will certainly be different and probably reduced, which will not help the life of the church or the spiritual growth of the children. Apart from the Sunday School where both Pinuccia and I teach, my main responsibilities this year will be leading one of the weekly Bible studies and the monthly church prayer meeting. Both of these will be on Zoom, because it allows many to attend who otherwise could not. I am still thinking about and learning how best to lead such meetings on Zoom, because the dynamics are so different from a meeting together. There will also be another Bible study group, that someone else is leading, in a home

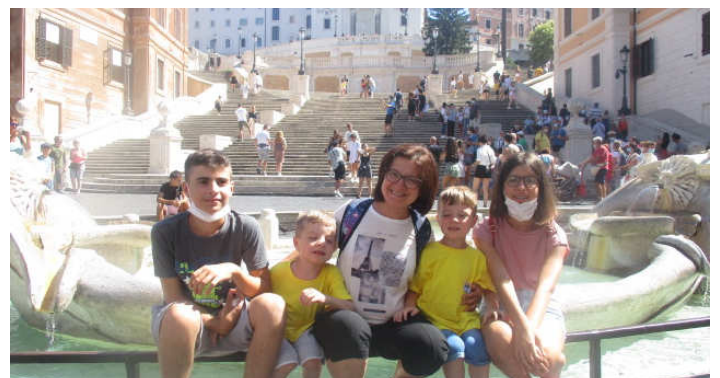
with the possibility of participating by Zoom. At least this is a step forward compared to what was possible a few months ago.

In the family

The children start school on the 14th. This year, Luca and Mattia will be starting a new school, as they go to first class in infants school. Daniele, in the equivalent of Year 8 in Australia, will be doing his last year of middle school, so will have important exams at the end of the school year, in June. Stefania, in Year 10, will be continuing with her second year of high school. At the time of writing this, it is still not totally clear what changes there will be in the school this year.

Pinuccia started work at the pre-school on September 1. After three years in which Mattia and Luca went to the pre-school in our town and Pinuccia had to drive a few kilometres to teach in a different school, she now has a job at the local school once again. This means a less than 10 minute walk or bike ride, which makes life a bit easier, especially as, at least some days in the week, she will be able to drop off or pick up the twins from school on the way. Of course, the pre-school is very different, with less liberty for the children (and teachers), but on the other hand the smaller class sizes are appreciated by all.

During the school holidays, we went to Sicily for a few weeks, to visit family and friends there, as well



With a visit to Rome on the way as well!

as spending some time at the beach and enjoying the other good things Sicily has to offer, that mostly means a lot of eating! Whilst we were there, we celebrated the arrival of our second teenager (Daniele). This will be the most that we have at one time, because the elder children will be out of their teens by the time the next two become teenagers. With many of Pinuccia's cousins (on her mother's side) returning to her home town during the summer, a pleasant unexpected outing was getting 11 of the 19 cousins together for a reunion, with their families. We had not seen some of those cousins for a long time. A less pleasant unexpected outing was the death and funeral of one of Pinuccia's uncles, where at least she was able to catch up with a lot of her cousins on her father's side. Pinuccia with Stefania and Daniele will be returning to Sicily for a weekend at the end of September, for the wedding of her niece.

On the computer

My main project during lockdown before the summer was to rewrite and improve my iOS app for reading and studying the Bible in Italian. The current app was so old, that Apple was going to remove it from its store at the end of June. I made the deadline, and the new and improved app is very appreciated. I have started work on the new Macintosh program, although I had to take a break during the summer. Once school starts, I will be able to finish that and get it published.

In the mission

This is the busiest period of the year for my international responsibilities in the mission. I am currently receiving more than 70 reports/plans from

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- That the spiritual hindrances to participating in church again will be removed.
- That good solutions will be found for the Sunday School so as to best help the children, and also their parents.
- Give thanks for the possibility of doing Bible studies with Zoom, and pray that Richard will learn how to do them better.
- For all the children having to adapt to a different school environment from what they were used to, but especially Luca and Mattia.
- Thanks that Pinuccia has work in our town again, and pray for her teaching of the children.
- For the use of my Bible programs and apps on phones, tablets, and computers.
- For the meetings for the two groups in ECM International on October 6-8.

all the teams on the field with ECM, sorting and extracting information so that they will be ready for discussion by the rest of the Ministry Development group at the beginning of October. At the same time, the Vision and Strategy group I am also a part of is looking at some big issues for the future. The two groups would usually meet together in October to get a lot of this work done, but this year it will be two and a half days of Zoom meetings instead.

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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.

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How to give to ECM:

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