

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN ROVERETO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca, and Mattia

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There are two and a half weeks to go until we leave for Australia, and we are counting down the days. Not just from the excitement (and a bit of trepidation from the non Australians in the family), but also concern as we wonder whether we will get everything ready by then. As well as usual life, which keeps us busy enough, there are a lot of extra activities for the end of the school year. I have been able to reduce the amount of teaching I need to prepare for, which should give me some time to prepare what I want to present in Australia.

Hospitality

There are always more opportunities to spend time with others in Spring, as people warm up after the winter, and this year there was the additional factor of the gradual removal of pandemic restrictions. Pinuccia and I want to have a ministry of hospitality, using what God has given us in our new apartment to help others. So, after a long pause, we have had several guests staying with us over the past few months. I have also been reinventing myself as a pizza chef, using the large wood fired oven that was one of the bonuses of this apartment. After a few practice runs with the family and teaching from some ex-pizza chefs in the church, we have been inviting gradually larger groups (some friends, the teenagers' group with parents, and then the whole Rovereto church) for pizzas. They have been a great success so far – not just the pizzas, but also providing a space and time for people to talk together, especially after the limited opportunities to do this in the past two years.



Ukraine

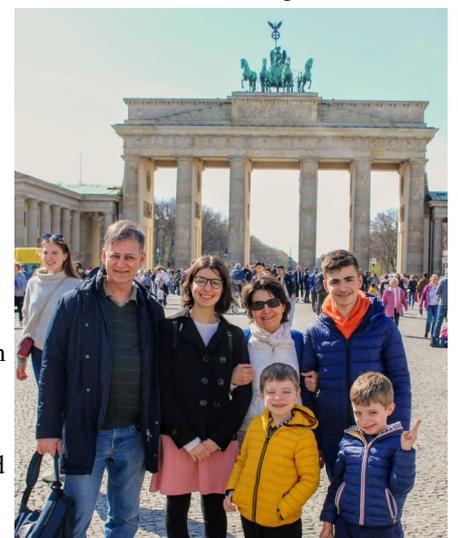
In my last newsletter, I wrote that I was helping with the management of some aspects of the response of the European Christian Mission to the Ukrainian war. Although the crisis remains, it has settled down and it has become easier to think about long term responses as well as about immediate needs. So my role has transformed a bit, and I am now on a five person team looking at all the projects from ECM missionaries around Europe to assist Ukrainian refugees, helping them to develop projects to best serve the refugees. It is similar to part of what my role in the Ministry Development Group of the mission has been in the last 10 years. It is also good to be able to serve God beyond my local area or country, and be able to help others to make a difference in all of the continent.

Christian Parenting

Pinuccia has been getting involved in the organisation of seminars on Christian parenting and similar topics. The speaker is a friend from her time at Bible school, who is Italian but now lives in Switzerland. Her friend has run these seminars and courses for many years in French, and is now starting to offer the same material to Italian churches. Pinuccia has organised and promoted some Zoom meetings for her, and last weekend went to a “live” seminar in a church a couple of hours drive away. Pinuccia is considering helping this ministry more, although it is difficult with a full-time job, a family to look after, and ministry in our church as well.

Australian Retreat

In April the whole family went to Berlin for a retreat for the Australian missionaries in ECM. The list of “things done for the first time in over two years” in this trip is long. But I can simply say that it was good to get back to some of the old normality and interact with people in the flesh, spending time together rather than just having meetings together. The teaching and the fellowship with other teenage missionary kids had a big effect particularly on Stefania, who called it, “a taste of what Heaven will be like”.



Youth Group

The teenagers from the two churches of Trento and Rovereto have been meeting together every couple of weeks, under the excellent leadership of Ruben. I try to help with lifts, sometimes having meetings at our apartment, and encouraging him. During one of their meetings, it was mentioned that the open prayer time in the services seemed to only be for the adults, so the teenagers challenged each other to pray aloud in the church. So it was a very pleasant surprise to hear Stefania pray in a service, and the following Sunday also Daniele. Other teenagers prayed at Trento. Continue to pray for the growth in maturity of all the teenagers in this group.

In Australia

The principal dates during our trip to Australia are listed in the following section. We are keen to catch up with others who have been supporting and praying for us in the last four years, so please contact us if you would like us to visit you, a group, or a church.

Upcoming dates

June 11: End of school year outing for the children and teenagers of the churches of Trento and Rovereto. This is instead of the usual summer camps, which again can not be held because of pandemic induced doubts six months ago when we needed to organise it, and because our family will be in Australia this summer.

June 18-21: Quick trip to Sicily to see family and friends, and celebrate Pinuccia's father's 80th birthday

June 22: Unpacking, washing, and repacking day

June 23: Leaving for Australia

July 4-8: ECM Australian National Conference

July 12: "Pray for Italy" at 6pm on Zoom, organised by ECM Australia

July 17-24: Canberra

August 13: Newcastle

August 24: Return home

In the meantime, Zoom and email will follow me while I am in Australia, and I will be continuing my continent wide ministries with various meetings, and the annual collecting and processing of reports from all the teams in ECM.

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Give thanks that the apartment that God provided for us is great for our family and has so many possibilities for serving the churches and Christians.
- Continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine, and that my small contribution may help to give relief to some Ukrainians, refugees and not.
- Pray for the help that Pinuccia gives in the organisation of seminars, and for wisdom to know how much she can be involved.
- Give thanks for the time together with other like-minded missionaries at Berlin.
- Pray for the ministry for the youth in our churches.
- Pray for the spiritual growth of our children.
- Pray that we would be able to prepare for our time in Australia, and that in our two months there we would be able to thank as many supporters as possible, find new supporters, and challenge others about thinking about mission. Pray especially for our financial support, which needs to be increased while we are in Australia.

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