

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN ROVERETO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca, and Mattia

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30th Anniversary Edition

Today, Friday 16th, is a special day: the 30th anniversary of my arrival in Italy. In fact, the whole week has been special, with a lot of wonderful things happening.

Last Sunday, Stefania and Daniele were baptised. It is always an important moment for parents to see their children express and manifest their faith in this way. It was in the afternoon at the church at Rovereto, and they had invited the teenagers from the church at Trento, who came with their families. With them and many other guests, it was the first time that I had seen the hall overfull. We also invited the families of the teenagers to our apartment for lunch after the morning services in the two churches, and catching up with these friends was an enjoyable addition to the day.



The festivities continued the next day, as the children went back to school. Always a bit of a relief after more than 3 months of summer holidays, and a bonus birthday present for me as well! It meant that I had two hours of tranquillity for the first time in quite a while. It also meant getting more involved



in work. In fact, it was also the deadline for the annual plans / reports from all the field teams in Europe Christian Mission, which all get sent to me. So 16 turned up that day (out of the about 60 which will come in), which meant some pleasant reading about God's work and missionaries' faithfulness around the continent, as I distilled information from them for the mission leadership. And then in the evening, an enjoyable party with the family.

On Wednesday I was excited about restarting the Bible studies at the church. It is good to be involved in regular teaching again. This year, we will be going through the book of Acts, to reflect again on our witness as a church. Like in many churches, there is less outreach than before as people have got used to staying at home and some doors have been closed, like visiting nursing homes. As well as that, the society is different now to how it was three years ago, which requires new thinking about how best to fulfil the mandate that is in Acts.

Then today, a time to stop and think about God's faithfulness over 30 years. A lot has changed in that time in my life and in my ministry, but God has not. And I could not have remained here all this time without all my supporters. There are people who have unfailing sent money every month for three decades. There have been people who have kept on praying, when nobody knew about their prayers except God. One of the most encouraging moments of our recent trip to Australia was meeting someone for the first time, who said they had been praying for me for about 20 years, when they heard about me while they were in the Youth Group.

In Australia

We spent two of the three months since our previous newsletter in Australia. We did accomplish what we had set out to do: thanking supporters, informing churches, challenging Christians, raising more prayer and financial support, helping each other as a family and broadening perspectives. There were also the unexpected and unplanned moments that made it more enjoyable: meeting up with a friend after 34 years and seeing their commitment to the Gospel, Stefania spending a day at a Bible school, cooking 35 pizzas for a friend's birthday party, Daniele and Stefania going regularly to a Youth Group, and so on. There were also the less enjoyable unplanned moments, like half the family testing positive to Covid when we arrived in Australia. However, it was good timing to get that out of the way during our planned week of rest, rather than later on when it would have disrupted our tight schedule.

Back at home

Pinuccia has a new 10 month long causal job, like every year. She is now teaching (with a specialisation in English) at a preschool about 10 minutes from home, which makes family life a lot easier compared to last year when there was an hour of travel each day.

All the usual ministries have restarted in church, with Richard doing three Bible studies, the men's study, and a sermon each month, and Pinuccia organising the Sunday School and doing every third lesson, and every few months leading the women's Bible study. We have also already had a few opportunities to invite people to our apartment for meals. The church did of course change in the two months we were away, with some new people attending. One was the arrival of the wife and three children of a refugee who was a pastor in Pakistan before having to escape. I have known him for about 5 years first at Trento and now at Rovereto. It has been a privilege to be a part of his life and difficulties in these years, and we as a family are finding ways to help his family settle in. The eldest son is already part of the music group, on the drums, and we will be taking him and the second son to the teenagers' group. Stefania has found a new ministry and talent as well, as she translates the services for them. Although she has translated for classmates who did not speak Italian, this is the first time she has had to do simultaneous translation. She is coping well, although she complains that I speak too fast when I preach!

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Give thanks for 30 years of God's faithfulness, and pray that he will continue to provide and I follow his leading for another 30 (?) years.
- Give thanks for all the pray and financial support we have received in this time.
- Give thanks for the public testimony of Daniele and Stefania, and that they will always grow in their commitment to God.
- Pray that the Bible studies in Acts this year will help the Rovereto church grow in their witness to the city and beyond, to the ends of the earth.
- Give thanks for a good time in Australia.
- Give thanks that all the family have adapted well to the new school year, and for the better job for Pinuccia this year.
- Pray for our regular ministries in the church, that God would use us to help others.



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