

# RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

## SERVING IN ROVERETO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca, and Mattia

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The last three months have been a period without big events or spectacular happenings, but of continuing gradual growth in the four areas of ministry that I am involved in.

### In the church

The church is going through a time of renovation. There have been quite a few new people coming along since the summer break, who have also started bringing others. This means that the congregation is getting back to the size it was in pre-pandemic times, during which quite a few people did stop attending for various reasons. However, it is not just the membership list that is being renovated. As the church reads through the book of Acts in its Bible Studies that I am leading, there is a growing interest and commitment to the witness at Rovereto and beyond, which had taken a bit of a battering during the pandemic. Both the church and the society are different now, and we are working on ourselves and thinking about the world around us in order to renew the testimony at Rovereto.

### In the mission

Every October there is my largest ministry for the mission as a whole. The *Ministry Development Group*, of which I am a part, collects (and chases up) ministry reports/plans from all the field teams across Europe, which then all pass through me. I process, order, and collate them. All the reports are then replied to by someone in the group, while I produce two summary documents which are then sent to the leadership of the mission to give them a broader understanding of what is happening in the mission in Europe: one with some statistics and one with some ministry stories. It is always a pleasure to be able to read more in depth about what all the missionaries are doing, to pray for them as I read their reports and plans, and have a small contribution to their ministry as I reply to them.

The other group in the mission to which I am dedicating a major time contribution in this period is the *Crisis Operations and Projects Team*. There are five of us who are managing the fund of money donated to the mission for relief work among Ukrainians. This means helping missionaries in Ukraine and in the rest of Europe prepare projects, ensuring due diligence is taken, and following up the results. Personally, I have been helping projects in Poland, Croatia, and Slovenia, with some input to all the other projects as well. As is the case with the Ministry Development Group, it is a privilege to have the opportunity to be involved in God's work and to help others not only in my little corner of the continent, and not only in Italy, but also elsewhere.

### On the computer

In October I was able to add another Italian Bible to my web

site and apps, the eighth that I have made available. It is a modern translation that was released a couple of years ago, and since then I and the publisher have received lots of requests to have it added to *LaParola*, since it is where a lot of people go for their Bible reading and study. I was also able to finally release a long-delayed update to the iOS app, which had suffered from a hard disk crash and various other problems.

I do have a lot of other projects I am currently working on for *LaParola*: a modernisation of the web site (which has more or less the same format as when it was launched in 2001); two new Italian translations from the middle of the last century to add (I've already corrected about 5000 scanning errors in each, but there are still some improvements to make to the texts): a rewrite of the program for Macintosh computers; and various improvements to some of the texts of the Bibles and commentaries that are already available. Time, of course, is limited for doing everything, and I have to try to decide and stick to priorities about what will be most useful to Italians using my resources to read and study the Bible.



### In the family

Our children are growing well, with a (mostly) positive attitude to school. They are also enjoying their other activities (sport, music, theatre) that keep us parents busy transporting them. Stefania and Daniele are also growing in their ministry in church. Daniele has become one of the helpers in the Sunday School, as well as continuing to run the computer during the church services. Stefania has become the assistant leader of the combined Youth Group of the Trento and Rovereto churches.



She is still actually a member of the Youth Group (although she is the oldest of them) but has been given some responsibilities for contacting other youth, organising some of the activities, and running part of the fortnightly program. She also has a mentor who will be helping her in this.

There was a good example of the family ministry recently. Once a month on a Saturday evening, I lead the Men's Bible Study at Rovereto. This year, Pinuccia is helping with the Women's Bible Study, and leads it once every four months, and in October it was her turn. This meant that neither of us were free to transport the teenagers (including our own) from Rovereto to Trento for the Youth Group meeting, which was on at the same time. So they all came to our apartment instead. At that meeting, Stefania gave a talk about our time in Australia, including some spiritual lessons she had learnt and wanted to tell the others, while Daniele translated for the Pakistan refugees who were present. This meant that four family members (and the apartment) were doing ministry at the same time, which was a first for us.



Stefania and Daniele during a late autumn walk in the snow with the other teenagers.

### Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Thank God for the new people he has been bringing to the church, and pray for true conversions and discipleship.
- Pray for the church as it reflects and acts on its witness at Rovereto and beyond.
- Give thanks that I can help the work of ECM not only in the province of Trento, but also in all of Europe.
- Pray for wisdom for the *Crisis Operation and Projects Team* as we consider how to best help Ukrainians affected by the war.
- Pray that the electronic resources I produce and publish through *LaParola* will help people read, study, and teach the Bible better in Italian.
- Pray that our children will persevere in their commitment to Christ, and grow in their service of God.

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