

RICHARD AND PINUCCIA WILSON

SERVING IN ROVERETO, ITALY

With Stefania, Daniele, Luca, and Mattia

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In the church

As happens most years, when the Spring weather arrives there is a lot more activity in the church. The most significant event in the long term was a public meeting at Ala. It is a town of about 15,000 inhabitants to the south of Rovereto. Some things were done there in the past, but the pandemic stopped the events and reduced the vision in the congregation. Something I have been trying to do since transferring to the church at Rovereto is rekindling the vision for church planting, and the weekly studies I have been doing in Acts have kept it on the agenda.

The turnout at the meeting was better than expected, with not only a few from Rovereto and a few that attend the church at Rovereto but live at Ala, but also a few people from Ala that had never heard of the church before. Since then, there have been some discussions about what to do next but no real steps forward. The pastor, Angelo, is trying to encourage the church members at Ala (who are on the periphery of church life at Rovereto) to take more responsibility for the new outreach, rather than it just being a witness coming from Rovereto.

In May the Youth Group of the teenagers from the Trento and Rovereto churches (including Stefania and Daniele) went away for a three day camp, the first since mid 2019. There were 14 teenagers and 4 adults in a hut in a pass at 1500 meters, without electricity or running water (except the natural fountain outside), but they survived! Rain was predicted for the whole time, including some storms, but they ended up not receiving a drop of rain. This meant they could do all their activities, like rock climbing, a hike up to 2000 meters, singing, Bible studies, a lot of time to encourage each other, and occasionally sleeping.



Stefania and Daniele at the hut for their camp

In May there was also a celebration in church, with the baptism of a couple. The husband started coming to church in September, the wife reluctantly started coming a couple of months later. They have both been wonderfully converted since then, and it is great to see the transformation in their lives and their enthusiasm for the Lord. Pray also for their four sons: the younger two come to church but have difficulty fitting in, and the two teenagers are not interested at all. Although one of the older sons did want to come to the mid week Bible study a few days after the baptism.

The better weather also means being about to use more the apartment that God provided us for hospitality. We have had a few visitors stay in the independent area of the apartment, which has also been transformed a couple of times into our “party” zone, where we have cooked pizzas for up to 30 people at a time from the churches.

In the mission

We spent a week in April at the conference of the European Christian Mission. In theory, it is held every two years, but this time five years had passed since the last time we were all together. In the past, it has been good to meet other missionaries that I had only read about previously. This time was different, as in general a lot of mission work has gone online (Zoom and email) since the last conference. In particular, a lot of my international responsibilities in the mission have involved emailing to help missionaries develop their ministries, and online meetings in various groups. So there were many missionaries I knew well but had never met personally, outside of a ministry or meeting context, and connecting with them over meals or in hotel corridors was good.

There were also good opportunities to develop the Italian team of the mission. It was also an important moment for the family, as they met up with other families in similar situations to ours.

Part of the conference was watching 3 minute video reports from various missionaries. You might like to watch the video that I produced, which describes a part of the computer ministry I do. You can watch it at <https://youtu.be/-CBWgB6i4Nk> .

On the computer

The major project that I completed in the last few months was an update to my macOS program to read the Bible in Italian (LaParola). This update was greatly needed and long overdue, as it had been seven years since the last one. However, the update kept running into various problems: my computer growing too old, a hard disk crash that lost all my data, other LaParola projects to work on, the fact that I find programming on a Mac a lot harder... The program still needs a lot of features added to it to bring it up to the capabilities of the LaParola programs for other operating systems, but I also have a couple of other projects to work on now.

In the family

As I write, it is the last week of school for most of the family. This has kept us busy with the usual round of end of year concerts, exams, dinners, recitals, and more. The children are looking forward to the long break from school; I'm looking forward to it a bit less!

Pinuccia has enjoyed her job this year, especially being at a school closer to home. Her school year and contact end at the end of June; in mid August there will be the usual selection of a new job from those that are offered her.



Luca and Mattia's end of year concert



Join me at an online meeting to pray for Italy and for us
June 13, 6pm (Sydney time)
See <https://www.ecmaustralia.org/pray-for-italy> for info
and to register to receive the link

Prayer and thanksgiving points

- Give thanks for the first meeting at Ala, and pray that God will continue to work in the Christians and non-Christians in that town to grow the ministry there.
- Give thanks for the great work the Youth Camp has done among the teenagers this year.
- Pray for the couple who were baptized, for their growth in Christ and witness in the family.
- Pray for the hospitality ministry in our home.
- Give thanks for the great good the conference did for the mission and for our family.
- Pray that the resources I continue to develop for LaParola will help people to know God and his Word better.
- Pray that the family will finish well this school year, and enjoy the summer break.

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