

## **In the family**

Since the last newsletter, we have had the long summer break, so there has not been much happening in the church. Instead we have been able to spend a lot more time together as a family than usual. We actually spent most of this time in Sicily, visiting Pinuccia's family.

Sicily has a very different life style to what we are used to at Trento. The maximum temperature was constantly around 40 degrees, although for a week there was a cold snap, with a bit of wind and temperatures only reaching 30 degrees. With this heat, like most Sicilians we remained indoors most of the day, and around 4.30pm thought about going out. As Pinuccia's town is just a few kilometres from the coast, we went to the beach two or three times a week (which of course the children enjoyed), and often had late nights (as people usually have dinner no earlier than 9pm) with family and friends. So Stefania and Daniele went to bed often in their clothes, going to sleep whilst we were out or in the car going home. At least it meant that they slept in late in the morning, so we got some good sleep as well. No more 6am wake up calls, like at home!



On the beach in Sicily

Whilst in Sicily, we celebrated Daniele's third birthday. Not having any friends in Sicily, we got a "rent-a-crowd" of children from Pinuccia's cousins and friends, and Daniele had a great time. He will always have this problem for his birthday, as every year at that time we will plan to be in Sicily or in Australia. Another highlight for me was getting, on our last day at the beach, a few waves. Being on the Mediterranean Sea, usually the water is flat, and personally I find swimming

### **Points for prayer**

- Thanks for a good summer together, for Pinuccia's work, and the opportunities to serve God in church again this year
- For the children and Pinuccia, that they will not suffer too much from less time together
- For the Bible studies in Acts, and other ministries we need to prepare

there as exciting as having a bath. But sometimes the wind creates a bit of movement, and that time there were 30-50 cm waves. This usually frightens the Italians, who don't like the water like that and don't go swimming, but it was just enough for me to go body surfing and catch a couple of waves.

This was also a time for me to do some preparation for the next year of Bible studies. I did not have time to do as much as I would have liked (preferring instead to do things with the family), but I do have a few studies in Acts ready. I was also able to work on some other projects.

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Looking ahead, preschool starts for the rest of the family on September 1st. Stefania starts her third and final year, whilst Daniele goes for the first time. Pinuccia has accepted a job at a school in the centre of Trento from 2.30pm to 5.30pm; that is, the after school care. It means she will be at home almost an hour later than last year and so an hour per day less with the children. She is not happy about this (and neither will Stefania and Daniele be once school starts), but there was nothing better available. On the other hand, with both children at school, Pinuccia and I will both get a lot more time to do other things. After a few years doing a lot less than what I had wanted to do, it will be a big change. I wonder though if we will suffer from the "empty nest" syndrome, having such an empty house during the day.

Although the school restarts on the 1st, it will be a couple of weeks before we



Holidays at Trento: at the lake

actually arrive at these rhythms. Firstly because Daniele has a gradual insertion at the preschool, first doing 1.5 hours per day, then a few more hours, before starting full time

attendance in the second half of the month. At the same time, my mother arrives on the 1st for a visit for a couple of weeks, which will help to fill the hole left by all my family going out every day!

The first couple of weeks of September are also filled with the preparations for the new church year, and getting the groups restarted. Pinuccia will be leading a meeting for the Sunday School teachers on the 2nd, with the classes starting probably on the 12th. She will also have to work out a program for the monthly ladies' meetings. I will be getting two cell groups started, as well as helping the other groups with the enrolments.

## Upcoming events

*1 September:* back to school

*2 September:* Sunday School planning meeting

*second and third week of September:* all the groups in the church and the Sunday School restart

*4-12 October:* ECM meetings at Madrid