

News and prayer info from Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania, Daniele, ?,? Wilson

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Helping a church to plant new churches and start new ministries in Trento, Italy

We are in the middle of the long summer break – 3 months of school vacation, 2 months for most church activities. This has meant more time for other things, especially my computer ministry and with the family, although there have been a couple of special church events as well.

On the computer

At the end of July I managed to finish or reach a milestone in four of my projects. It was a bit of a coincidence that I reached a significant point in all of them at almost the same time, but it was satisfying to be able to wrap them up in this way. The highlights:

1. I finished all my comments on the historical books in my “Hard Passages of the Bible” text. This started out as my answers to common questions I receive on the Bible, so that I did not have to keep writing the same thing to different people, but expanded to become explanations to all of the most difficult Bible passages. I only have the Pentateuch to do now, but in the mean time the 250 answers that I have written so far in 268 pages are available on-line and as a PDF at <http://www.laparola.net/brani/> , and as a commentary in my Bible programs for Windows and Android.

2. Working with an Italian publishing house, I published their translation of an almost 10,000 page commentary on the entire Bible for my Android program. This is the fourth commentary I have distributed for them. Naturally, all the money for the sales goes to the publishing house – my supporters pay for all the time I dedicate to such projects.

3. Finally, the first version of my program for iPhone and iPad is on the App Store (search for 'laparola'), which has been very much requested. It was not easy since I did not own any Apple equipment, but an Italian church helped donating to me a Macintosh computer, that is necessary to write such programs. The program is still being tested, so has not been officially announced, but I'm sure many Italians will be happy when it is released, and it will greatly increase the distribution of the Bible in Italian. Again, this is the fruit of the prayers and financial giving of all my supporters. Since the version of the program for Macintosh is closely related to the iOS version, I also found and fixed some problems in the Macintosh program and released a new version this week – the first version of my Macintosh program on the App Store.

In the church

At the beginning of July there was the seventh church children's camp, the first that lasted a whole week. As we were supposed to be in Australia, others ran the camp, but I went a few times to help with the organisation and to lead some activities. One was doing the filming to create a video of the participants dancing to the song “Happy”, as is the fashion these days. Another was an evening of Extreme Sports, of which my personal favourite was Extreme Ironing (which really does exist, it is on Wikipedia!) – the children were very imaginative in finding extreme ways to iron my shirt. I have heard positive feedback about the camp. My favourite news was about a boy called Daniele, from a family at Lavis that we know well. (One daughter is in Stefania's class, another was her gymnastics teacher; the mother is an evangelical from Africa, the father is from Lavis but a non believer. Daniele is actually the mother's nephew, who was brought to Italy.) Daniele has had a lot of problems at the school at Lavis, partly due to racism and low self esteem, and did not want to go on the camp. But he came back very happy and speaks a lot about the camp, and both his parents said that he is a different person, very serene and willing to help around the house. It helped that the leader who took my place was Ini, a Nigerian young adult, who had a much closer relationship to Daniele than I would have had. We are praying that this change will continue also at school.



Later in July there was the first baptismal service at the Rovereto church. It was great to hear the testimonies of the two people who were baptised: Emanuela the elder's teenage daughter (who Pinuccia and I saw a lot over the years in the Sunday School, the Youth Group, and the camps), and Lino, who was converted in the last

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18 months in which he has been attending the church at Rovereto. Two very different people, with different stories, but the same witness to God's free gift to them, not based on what they had done. It was also a great time together for the two churches at Trento and Rovereto, in their diversity. There was the Pakistan group with the Africans, the teenagers with the young adults, even a Russian family who had come to visit their son who is studying at Trento. For many, it was the first time we had seen each other for a few months or even a year, as each church continues their ministry in their own town. But despite the separation, there has always been the commitment to each other and to the gospel in the whole province of Trento, which made the picking up of the relationships easy.

In the family

The pregnancy continues well, with check-ups every two weeks not showing any problems at all, and both boys are right on the average size for a baby at this stage. Of course, two average babies add up to a lot, and Pinuccia is bigger now than she was when the other two children were born

after more than nine months. This means that her mobility, autonomy and energy levels are continuously dropping as the size increases. It is still manageable, although there are still two months to go.



Points for prayer

- Pray that my computer ministry will continue to help Italians to read, study and teach the Bible in new ways.
- Give thanks for the transformation in Daniele, and pray that he and the others at the camp will see lasting fruit.
- Give thanks that the pregnancy continues well, and pray for the twin boys and for extra strength for Pinuccia in these last two months.
- Give thanks for the 22 years of support from friends and churches, which has allowed me to freely distribute the Bible on computer. Pray for the extra support that we now need.

Support

Having one child would not have required much extra expenses. But the unexpected gift of twins requires some extra items that we do not have: double prams and strollers, a car that fits more than five people, and so on. We have already received some gifts for them, but if you would like to financially contribute to these expenses, please contact the ECM office (see the box at the top left of this newsletter). More importantly in the long term is that having two extra children means that ECM will send more monthly support to us. So although we are slightly over supported at the moment, we will not be after the birth. Once again, if you want to contribute monthly to our support, please contact the ECM office.

Upcoming events

25-28 August: ECM Italy prayer days

10 September: back to school; most of the regular church activities will be restarting around the same time

9-30 October: the most likely dates for the programmed birth of the twins