

**Richard, Pinuccia, Stefania, Daniele, Luca, Mattia**

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

**In the church**

There has been a lot of movement in the church, as is normal at this time of year after the summer break. Although the comings and goings seem to be even higher than normal this year, with some interesting people arriving. Just last weekend a Canadian ice hockey player, a Korean violin maker, and a German missionary who works in sports ministry all arrived in church. We also farewelled the family that has led the English language Bible study and ministry to foreign students over the last four years. Other weeks there have been other people. So there will be some changes to the church, and it will be an interesting journey to see where God is taking us.

It has also been the time to restart the various groups, which Pinuccia has been doing with the Sunday School and I with the small group I lead, and generally helping all the groups with their enrolments. I am also excited by the program for the older children of the Sunday School, that I lead with two others. We are concentrating on developing service, and how to respond to practical challenges to their faith, reflecting on the letter of James. In fact the first week, whilst the younger children went to a park for their introduction and a few games, our class stayed in the hall making waffles for everybody else. The next Sundays they talked about trials and temptations, in particular how to respond to the blasphemies they receive in messages from their classmates on WhatsApp. Next week we will be looking at doing what the Word says, and then preparing a lesson for the smaller children.

**In the family**

The family has settled into their respective schools now. Luca and Mattia have started nursery for four hours a day, and are settling into a different rhythm. They have just started crawling, which I was in no hurry to see happen – we had to child proof the ground level part of the house, but have had a couple of twin made disasters anyway. Soon we will have to take away all the objects from the next level of the house. Pinuccia is enjoying her almost perfect job just 10 minutes' walk away, and it is working out well giving her and me time in the mornings to get other things done, and time in the late afternoon with all the family. Although it is not always easy to get done all that we need to do in the family and in the house, we are a lot less stressed by everything now than we were last year.

A couple of years ago Daniele was diagnosed with a relatively bad case of scoliosis – his back bone was both curved and twisted. So he has been



Me with the other teachers Gloria and Enrica, with some of the class making waffles: Katja, Gaia, Gioia and a visitor.

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wearing a back brace since then, and having regular physiotherapy appointments. We were told that at his age the brace did not actually do much, but it was important to wear it now so that everything would be ready when he would have his teenage growth spurt. However, when Daniele had a radiography in June, his back had straightened, so he did not have to wear the brace over the (northern) summer holidays. A couple of weeks ago he had an appointment with the specialist, who confirmed that the back bone was now straight, although it is still slightly twisted. So Daniele can continue without the back brace and the physiotherapy, and will have another check up in June. When I asked the specialist if it was normal that the back straightens up like that, he only said that the brace had done its work. This despite the fact that we had been told that the brace was not supposed to have such an effect until adolescence, and that we had been regularly rebuked at the check ups because the brace had not been worn enough and was not tight enough. A couple of times we

### Points for prayer and thanksgiving

- For the new people arriving in church, that they would feel welcomed, and help us serve and glorify God in different ways at Trento
- For the regular weekly ministry of Pinuccia and myself, that it will bear fruit that lasts.
- For my Sunday School class: Kora, Katja, Gioia, Giorgia, Gaia, Alessandro. All wonderful children, but all with different challenges to their faith.
- For Pinuccia's job at the preschool, and the twins being able to go to the nursery, that are helping as to cope a lot better.
- For the vast improvements in Daniele's back, and that God hears and answers our prayers.



were told that, since the brace had not been used correctly, Daniele might just as well not worn it for the previous few months – the brace could not have done its work properly. And yet, it did... For Daniele, it is the third time that he has seen a big answer to his prayers, after the cases of the non exploding balloons and the little brother(s).

### Upcoming events

*11-13 November:* meeting for some ECM country leaders in England – my in-laws will be visiting and helping a lot with the family, so I will be able to go.