

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

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

**In the church**

Each year, the church children's camp is a bit different from previous camps. Sometimes it is the studies that have most impact. Last year it was the informal conversations with the children that were most helpful. At this year's camp, the main benefit was the time that the children spent with each other. This was in part due to the theme (sport and especially the Olympics), which meant more physical activities and less reflection, but it was also due to the stage that the children are at right now. Certainly what Stefania and Daniele were looking forward to most in the week leading up to the camp was seeing their best friends in the church for three days in a row. So the boys spent a lot of time on the football field, and the girls camped out in their bedroom, and I was happy to see that happen.

The creation of relationships between the children and making a "group" has always been an important objective of the camps, as they need to support each other as they grow, especially as, for example, most are the only evangelicals in their school. So there was growth in this, although we certainly have not reached perfection. The creation of a group always has the risk of leaving people out who don't quite fit in. And that was the case of two of the boys who tended

to be left out, because of cultural differences or difficulties in socialising that they have. However progress was made, and it was better at the end than at the beginning. When we asked one of the boys if he was enjoying the camp, he replied no because he felt a bit left out, but at the end of camp when he had played a bit with the others he did affirm that he had had a good time. So it will be something that the teachers of the Sunday School will be working on after the summer holidays.

A little surprise during the camp was when we asked each child to draw their own flag, with things that they liked or that represented them. However, the things that some of the boys liked were not things that we liked: objects of war and killing, and even a demon. So we had to cut short that activity, and do some on the spot teaching about reflecting on what is good. Talking more about this is on the agenda for the Sunday School as well.



I knew my Sydney 2000 shirt would come in handy one day!

Richard and Pinuccia Wilson  
via Zippel, 5  
38015 Lavis TN, Italy  
Phone: +39 0461240992  
richard@laparola.net  
http://www.laparola.net/richard/  
Blog: http://richard.laparola.net/  
https://www.facebook.com/  
richard.wilson.italy

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**European Christian Mission**

**P.O. Box 15**

**Croydon NSW 2132**

**(02) 97475446**

**ecm.oz@ecmi.org**



Last Friday, the church finally signed the documents to take possession of the new church hall. It took a while, because we had a little discussion with the tax department on how much we should be paying them. This has given us time to go through about 10 drafts of the plans for the restructuring, and everyone is happy now. The work will be starting shortly, with the hope of being able to use the hall from September.

## **In the family**

Stefania and Daniele started their long (more than 3 months) summer holidays towards the beginning of June, but Pinuccia, Luca and Mattia kept going to school until the end of June. So it was been a bit of a strange period, with a bit of a vacation feel with having some of the family at home, but not being able to do a lot of vacation type activities because half of the family was still at school. But now everyone will be at home (for

### **Points for prayer and thanksgiving**

- For all the children that attended the camp, that they will grow in their relationship with God and in their relationships with each other
- That the new hall will be a blessing for the church and for the city
- That God will continue to plant his church in the Valsugana valley (and the Val di Non and the rest of the province)
- That the summer vacations will be a time for rest for the whole family, despite the extra energy being used when we are all together!

all of July and August), so it will be a complete school holiday time. In fact we are leaving shortly for a few weeks in Sicily with Pinuccia's family and the beach, and then the rest of the time we will be doing various things around Trento – and I will be trying to get some work done as well.



An open air service in the Valsugana one Sunday afternoon—they are still keen on planting a church in their area.

## **Upcoming events**

*2-9 July:* Church camp for 12-16 year olds

*a few weeks in July:* in Sicily with the family

*16-19 August:* ECM Italy prayer days