



March 2014

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13.35

Dear Friends,

Italy's love for the car is legendary. Expressed in many ways, not least of which is how Italians toot, gesture, talk and shout from behind the wheel, believing that they are effectively communicating with other drivers on the road! Whilst I love riding my bike around town, I have felt rather restricted without the freedom that a car gives: no more! E, as she does in so many things, helped me in the purchase of a Fiat 500. Now I can express love for others by visiting, giving lifts and saving time. I thank God every time I get behind the wheel of this new addition, which has brought me such pleasure in my service of the Lord here.



“By this all people will know that you are my disciples....” *...whether in the sala (hall)....*

There's been little to celebrate politically this past month, but at **Forte Torre**, we quietly gave thanks for our 3rd birthday. The highest privilege anyone can enjoy is to be a welcome and loved member of a worshipping congregation: we pray that the 19 families that God has given us since September through the ministry of **Torricine Bilingue** will, in time, know this joy too. Whilst



parents' undoubted priority is English, we pray this will change over time so that they prioritise Christ. Give thanks then for our continued use of the sala on Wednesdays and for the wonderful provision of gifted team-members A (Italian) and B (American). A is loving, helpful and growing weekly in her understanding of how to live as a disciple for Christ,

TIMINGS	TORRICINE
4.00	Set up
5.00	Prayer
5.15	Conversations @ drop-off. Craft
5.40	Game
5.50	Talk
6.00	English
7.00	Conversations @ pick-up

not least of which is expressed in her commitment to the club in spite of a new job. We divide the children up for their 60min English lesson according to age. A helps me teach “the littlies” and they love her! For the moment, B can only stay until 6.00pm so she runs the game and helps with the craft, either or both of which aim to reinforce the teaching, this year from Luke.

...or in homes.... Thank you for praying for S+E in their witness to neighbour. Following their recent move and whilst S was out at the men's evening, we girlies got together to help E open up their home by throwing a “baby shower”. Two of her ante-natal class-mates, A+A, joined us: a cause for great thanks as they listened attentively to a short explanation of Ps139.



“...if you have love for one another.” *...whether in the sala ...or in homes....*

Daily, I thank God for giving us the powerful weapons of His Spirit, His Word, faith and not least **prayer** to fight on in the advancement of His Kingdom. At **Forte Torre**, one of the ways in which we encourage each other in our love for/service of Christ and others is to meet together humbly in prayer every Sunday (9.45-10.15am) and every Thursday. JP normally leads the former. We pray following a three week rotation that we might: **1. win others for Christ; 2. be built up in Christ and 3.**

live in a manner worthy of Christ. Our Thursday prayer meetings alternate between a prayer breakfast at 7.15-8.00am and a tasty starter (!) to our study at 7.30-8.15pm. These are led and hosted by others in the fellowship: our focus here being local, national and international needs/mission. We aim to be thankful and specific: for example, **having prayed** for the **Bologna Bible School**, we're encouraged (at time of writing), that the three churches of San Lazarro, Forte Torre + Nuova Vita will be joined by at least four others from neighbouring towns. **Having prayed** for the new little church in **Budrio**, her pastor, S, reported that all who said they'd come are committed and people in the town, including a Buddhist are showing interest. They held their first public service on 23rd Feb. **Having wrestled in prayer for individuals + issues in our fellowship**, it's been exciting to see the Lord binding and loosing with an overall sense that He is building Forte Torre, stone by precious stone. An example here would be D+E, church members who currently live in Modena and who are looking for work. With afflictions on many fronts, they see the Lord's Hand in their lives and welcome this "pause" which gives them the opportunity to draw closer to God, seeking His will for their future. Give thanks that they are enjoying being more "a part of church-life" as a result. Please pray for this young couple that they'd remain steadfast in their resolve to follow the Lord Jesus in faithful and loving obedience with a growing confidence in His all-sufficiency.



"..all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

It's a highlight of my life to share a meal and pray with R every two weeks specifically for the needs of Forte Torre. This extraordinary "ordinary" lady exhibits Christ's love in countless ways in her love+service of people both saved and unsaved. She **gives thanks** for the locale that the Lord has provided this side of town for a second **Exchange Summer Camp** for teenagers and for Sue's hard work in searching and negotiating an affordable price. She **asks for prayer**: 1.as she keeps a wise eye on the future in training up younger sisters in the preparation of food for agapes,(church lunches) + for all the summer camps; 2. so as "to shine from the margins" in her supportive role during **Torrincine** and for the Spirit to plant deep roots in children's hearts so that in years ahead, He'll lead them to Christ; 3. for her(+us)to know the Lord's blessing as she asks permission from the civic authorities as we seek to bless Bologna once again through Puppet shows in May. (At present, it's unclear if we'll be able use amplification and if this be the case, it could quite diminish our efforts).

Thank you all so much for your support and prayers: It's an enormous privilege to be a part of Forte Torre and be so strengthened to work for Christ in Bologna. As JP preaches illuminating sermons on **friendship** in Prov, our last Agape gave us the opportunity to chat (amongst other things!) about how to be a true friend. I'm personally encouraged by the establishment of warm relationships with unbelieving Italian women: S, S, S, S, P, C, M, M, R +T (most of whom I know through teaching work and these outside of Torrincine). Please pray for me to seize every opportunity with love and sensitivity in presenting true friendship which comes only from knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.



And; apparently, by God's grace, my Italian is improving,.. Eviva! (Hooray!)

With much love as ever,

Penny. x

P.S. Do check out our web-site if you can.....www.fortetorre.org

PRAYER POINTS

- For Christians throughout Italy to seize on recent political events to speak boldly about Christ, act courageously and to persevere in **earnest prayer** for our leaders.
- For Torrincine parents to come to our **Eve with a Theme** on 14th March: "Who are we?"(i.e. Forte Torre) or to a Sunday service and for the Spirit to convict and start a good work in adult hearts (as well as their children's).
- For the Lord to add more **men** to our number: we're praying for the Spirit to take hold of unsaved husbands, fiancées and sons and for our men to persevere with wisdom and zeal in their fishing. Please pray for a good presence of men on 14th March.
- For A, A, B, E (women) and A (man) considering **baptism** and/or church membership.
- Post BBS for an ongoing **hunger and thirst** to love Christ in His Word in daily Bible reading either alone or with others and for God graciously to grow pastors out of this work for future church plants.
- For prayerful and cheerful **giving** on 16th March towards the funding of a building and for the Lord in His goodness to provide us with the **building** of His choice.
- For Forte Torre to be granted permission for the **puppets** (and us!) to speak and sing of God's love for the world in Christ on May 11th + 25th under the two towers.

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