



March 2015

***“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of time. Let your speech be seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”***

Colossians 4:2-6

Dear Friends,

“Che bella porta!” That’s a good door!” A compliment here, reflecting the Italian obsession with security. Locked gates operated by remotes to access courtyards; huge, heavy, forbidding doors with entry-phones on apartment blocks; triple-locks to double doors to homes within; shuttered windows; padlocks, chains: a seemingly closed society, keeping unwelcome guests out and families safe within.

**Praise God** that English, the official international language, is much sought after and thus my work as a teacher has opened many doors into Bologna homes. Much of my teaching work came initially through the previous clients of an American girl, **M**, who lived + worked here for many years, and who came to **Forte Torre** during the early months. By God’s Grace, her work for a large insurance company is now a part of Sue’s current work. Furthermore, without M’s contacts, the first **Torricine** camp would never have begun in 2010; a small start then to an ever-growing ministry now. Finally, it was M who found my flat, whilst surfing the web after returning home to the USA! **Give thanks for M** presently serving Christ in America with a divided heart, as part of her longs to be back at Forte Torre, living for the Lord Jesus in Bologna. “Of course, it would be great if God opened a door for me to go back to Italy...I use my commute time to pray for all those I love in Italy..Forte Torre as a church...” **Pray** that M would know the Lord’s wisdom as she weighs up the possibility of returning and meanwhile “for God to use me to encourage my believing friends and point my non-believing friends in Christ’s direction.”



**Thank God** for every parent, grandparent, teenager, child, housekeeper, maid and nanny with whom I’m in weekly contact. **Pray for God to open a door for His Word** by bringing them all on camp and their considering the after-school club as a viable alternative to private lessons; by bringing teenagers to **Exch@nge** and **MySpace**; and adults to the **Apologetics Eve, Perché Gesù? or a Sunday service**. Almost all attend their local parochial RC church with children going to weekly catechism. **Pray for** Christ to rescue His own from prisons of slavery to sin and complacent positions of sheltering under a comfortable but false gospel; **for** the professional/rich to be humbled when I speak clearly (and sensitively) of Christ and His true church. **Pray for Ch**, a lawyer, who came to our last Apologetics Eve and did NOT like what she heard about God’s righteousness, saying (graciously) that the use of law-court language wasn’t appropriate! **Pray for Si**, who attended **Perché Gesù?**, who thinks JP’s teaching is “bravissimo”, to listen to sermons on the web-site and to come to **Forte Torre** one Sunday so as to see Christ’s faithful church for herself.



One door I'm very happy to go through every Tuesday is this one! In stark contrast to the elegant and comfortable houses of others, **V**(14), lives in a community care home for teenage girls. In an exciting example of baton-passing Li, a Youth for Christ worker, started teaching V English last year. V came to **Exch@nge 2014** where she was eager to learn what the Scriptures say about Christ and to understand more about the forgiveness that only He offers. When Li left Bologna last Nov, I grasped the baton (to teach V) joyfully. As we started to pray together, she was happy to accept the invitation to come to **MySpace** where she met An. In January, An invited V to her baptism and she's been coming to church ever since. **Pray**

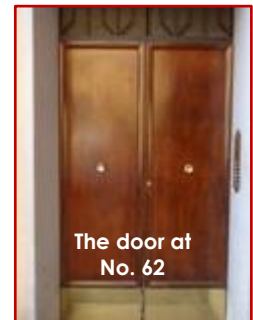
**for** other girls from the home to come to **MySpace** and for our witness to all who work there as we regularly visit. The staff so far have been delighted that V is being shown so much love, yet my constant prayer is that this particular door remains open. **Pray** that V might (one day) also be baptized first by the Spirit and then at a similar such service at **Forte Torre**....in the new building!



**Give thanks** that Sundays + prayer meetings have seen growth and more men have been coming regularly. **Pray for Al**, whose father died recently, as he seeks to be a strong and sensitive support for his Mum, **G**, who remains unsure of Christ's gospel. Mercifully, both parents came to the baptism service. **Pray for Al** to know the Spirit's help as he prepares to speak at our **Apologetics Evening** on 10<sup>th</sup> April; that he may speak clearly about the differences between the Triune God and other gods, notably Allah.



**Give thanks** for the building team's labours as they liaise with L (project manager)+A (architect) to create the best use of the space. As we pray for bureaucratic, financial and legal doors to open making it possible to house both present and future ministries, we remember with thanks, how the Lord God so far has broken down many such an impossible one.



**Please pray** that the door of 62 would be a means for an open door for the Word... even before we start to meet there.

**With love and in prayer for you all, to know the steadfast strengthening grace of the Lord Jesus as you proclaim him, his death and his resurrection this Easter,**

Penny.

## PRAYER POINTS

- **Please pray**, following the first **Forte Torre Easter Egg Hunt**, for invites to **Easter Day, Apologetics Eve (10/4), Perché Gesù? (April-May), and Summer Camps** to be accepted so that more doors are opened for the Word and Christ's church continues to grow.
- for Sa (dear friend) as she's battling cancer + daughter Ch with ankle injury to be open to Sue's suggestion of doing **Perché Gesù?** Both are "imprisoned" at home at present.
- for Sue to know the Lord Jesus' strength, help and wisdom in the run-up to camps.
- for the Spirit's work in us as we finish a wonderful sermon series on the 7 festivals of Lev23; that we'd have the eyes of faith to see how Christ fulfils each one, enabling us to know **how we ought to answer each person.**
- for many students to be present at events of the first **Bologna University Student Week 12-15 April.**
- for the Word of Christ to penetrate the lives of L, A, N (influential neighbour) + others during the course of the building project.

**Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details**

Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 [pletters@crosslinks.org](mailto:pletters@crosslinks.org)  
 Crosslinks, 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT6 9HL Northern Ireland Tel: +44 (0) 28 9079 6028