

August 2016

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine dresser." John 15.1

Dear Friends,



After three consecutive weeks of camp through June, July has been a whirl of family visiting and visits whilst maintaining as constant a presence in church life as possible. Driving through Tuscan countryside and being surrounded by many productive vineyards has been a powerful visual stimulus to my praise of God's glorious grace in my life and in the lives of others and to my prayers for Italy, Bologna and Forte Torre.

Torricine summer camp - praising God for:

- the privilege of abiding, praying and then sowing in children's lives whilst they are still at an age to trust; leading a small group of eager young bible detectives and seeing boys **A, E and J** willing to grapple with the text open in front of them.
- God's wisdom in giving us fewer families, enabling a more personal work with each child and greater opportunities to challenge parents honestly and openly about their priorities for their children.
- servant-hearted younger brothers and sisters from **Christ Church, Durham** and **Forte Torre**; seeing them mature in the giving of talks, the leading of bible studies and their intercessions; sharing with them the highs and lows of children's work with a joy-filled unity and determination to proclaim and explain the gospel message in **Elijah and Elisha's** prophetic ministries.
- the encouragement of having had a much greater participation from **FT men** this year.
- the freedom to invite the children to respond to all they'd heard in praying a simple prayer of repentance and trust to God – a quiet, solemn, moving moment.
- the presence of **F**, (grandmother) in church and then the week after, the **first Torricine family V, L** with twin girls **I and B**: heart-warming to see the father, **V** with the Bible open throughout the sermon.

Thank you for praying for fruit from:

- **the Easter Egg Hunt** in March – a good attendance and attention from the majority who came with much interest shown in **Perché Gesù, Passo per Passo** and **Sunday** services.
- **Torricine doposcuola** throughout the year. Teaching **S, T and G** English gave me the opportunity to do a mini bible study most weeks, giving them a few pointers in how to read the Bible for themselves because as **G** said, "...but, Penny, it's so big and long!" Wonderfully, **T** quietly said he was enjoying his personal bible-reading whilst **S's** answers suggested he was making progress in seeing we are justified by faith in Christ alone (all three boys attended the first week of camp).

Exch@nge Camp (partnering with Youth for Christ and New Hope Church) - **praising God for:**

- his kindness in giving us 30 youngsters (more or less the number we'd been praying for); particularly as many only signed up in the two weeks prior to camp (the teams from America, UK and Italy had been in place for some time).
- his word and the opportunity to challenge youngsters' thinking through clear messages and probing bible studies in **Genesis 1-3** and **Romans**.

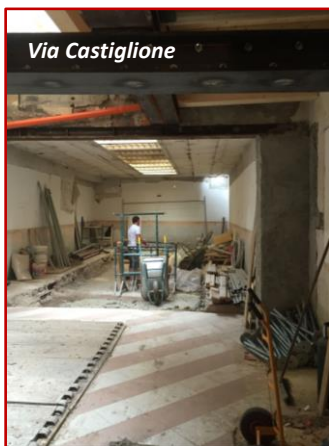


- his goodness as we saw progress in many who were willing to discuss the gospel as of the utmost relevance in their lives.
- **S** from FT who'd taken a week off work – his input was invaluable.
- his provision of all necessary resources – a super site, a terrific, enthusiastic and united team providing variety in and energy for all the tasks that went into making the camp an excellent witness to Italian parents. At the BBQ held on the last night (an event always well attended), it was good to hear comments like,

"Far and above what we would've expected, thank you!"

"We notice a real difference in your approach to the Bible."

"A came home full of what she'd been taught as she'd never heard the Bible taught so clearly."



65 Via Castiglione – in praising God for his steadfast faithfulness, in remembering all bureaucratic battles won, every £/€ cheerfully given, every ounce of energy spent and extraordinary (at times excruciating) effort taken to bring the project thus far, there's an ever-growing urgency to our prayers yet a trusting reliance that God will continue to provide all that is required to complete a building that will glorify him, in time for the restart of the clubs.

Please pray for:-

- trust and good relationships between all workers on site; for the Spirit's gifting of father and son team, **E and R** and co-worker **G**;
- a contentment that comes from being inspired by the project and from being respected and valued by the team from FT's consistently good witness.
- supernatural energy, patience and persistence for the **FT team**;
- divine wisdom in every decision;
- the rest of us to support the work prayerfully and watchfully, asking for a

miraculous making-up of the financial shortfall that results in a creative generosity on our part in the form of loans, the short-term letting out of rooms – or in the proceeds of book sales....

Genesi – possibly the first of its kind in Italy and the first of a collection of biblical study guides – written by **JP**, Italian checked by **A** and cover designed by **A**. From the babyest of believers to the most mature saint, the hope is that any who use it will find it a real help to personal or group bible study and to know the God of the word better in the study of one book. In the preface, another Italian pastor writes, "This book is an invitation to study Genesis with a secure guide... But be careful, [it] could infect you. So, if you don't want to be infected to love and worship God, more biblically and passionately, this book is not for you."



With love and prayers for the Spirit to teach us to pray with perseverance to contend for the Lord in our generation, staying faithful when we see no obvious fruit, knowing the Lord is at work nonetheless.

Have a wonderful summer,

Penny.

www.fortetorre.org

PRAYER POINTS – Please pray for

- God's mercy on the **Torricine** families that they might remain with us, under the sound of his word when we move the work across to **Via Castiglione** in October.
- faithful messengers of the gospel to be the fruit from these camps – a testimony to the prayers and hard work of branches who have learnt to abide in the true vine for everything.
- the Lord to prepare **FT** to be ready to extend present ministries and to serve in exciting new ways – not least of which is to man the bookshop and be a visible constant testimony to Christ.
- the salvation of all those working on the project.
- many Italians to buy **Genesi** and for the Spirit, by his sanctifying work, grant them a greater hunger to devour the Scriptures to worship the one whose fullness fills all in all.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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