



July 2015

'And he believed the LORD and He counted it to him as righteousness.' Genesis 15:6

Dear Friends,

As we, at **Forte Torre**, continue to sow faithfully and lovingly for the long term, we're so very grateful to God for the **consistent** five-year partnership we've enjoyed with Christchurch Durham, a **consistency** further enhanced with the wonderful bonus of having Italian speaker **W** back once more at the helm and **So** (now on her fifth visit). We gave constant thanks for **consistent** contact with many children and their families and a **consistent** growth in involvement on the part of our church family. Let's not forget either the **consistent**, constant and continual hard work of **Sue** in planning and preparing the camp; in linking and liaising with teams from Durham and from Forte Torre; and in the patient handling of (some) demanding parents. **Thank you for praying for her.**



'Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!' Ps 105.4.

We had been careful to pray in the weeks leading up to camp and were sad that one of our after-school club families chose the summer camp of the local RC "parish" over ours. **However**, we were thrilled by the choice **Ir** had made to come to us rather than go to her local RC "parish": a choice that had distinguished her from her twin sister and all her friends. What a joy then to see her overflowing with exuberance each day when her parents (and sister) came to collect her! **Thank you for praying for this family last year.** We were disappointed in lack of continuity with some

families with whom we've been labouring over the years **yet** we were delighted to see new faces. Overall, we trusted in God's Sovereignty, that He had brought those of His choice and we rejoiced that we were full with an even balance of boys (29) and girls (27). **Thank you for praying in the weeks leading up to camp.**

'Pray without ceasing.' 1 Thess 5:17. Every morning, at our faith-strengthening, edifying (and bilingual) prayer gatherings, we earnestly asked for the Lord to work; and that we might see fruit in our labours for Him. Prayers led by **JP**, moulded from Joshua, our current sermon series, reminded us that **ONLY** in Christ is there justice and victory and **ONLY** He could call children to be His disciples and boys to be His future pastors. We recognized that by keeping our sights fixed firmly on His throne, **ONLY** Christ could save lives of parents and their children by working real spiritual breakthroughs in delivering them from deadly false teachings and darkened ideas. Long-term work!

So, we lifted our faith-filled eyes and **watched and worked and worked and watched!** With talks spread over a greater number of folk, we **watched** with gladness as the children sat at the Lord's feet, figuratively speaking, lapping up the clear, illuminating and liberating gospel messages from **Genesis**, mapping out the adventurous life of Abraham. "Best time of the day" for many!

We **worked** in our weaknesses in tough group study times; with language, with age (many of the children were "littlies" being only 6-7 years old) and with sheer hard-hearted stubbornness. **BUT, consistency** had built trust and honesty, making these times far more real this year. There were those who had refused to open Bibles in the past, yet did so when asked. There were those who scrutinized the Scriptures and gave us mixed



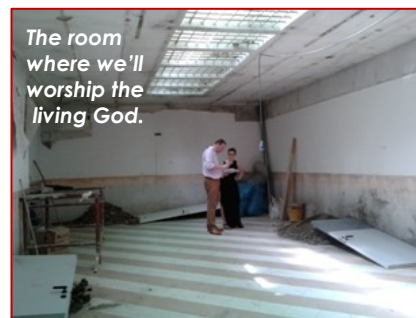
New children:
smiling faces!

responses. One boy, **M**, arguing from his RC position of faith and works, flatly refused to accept that ONLY by faith in Christ is he saved and declared righteous. For him, the grace of God in Christ Jesus remains a stumbling block. His brother, **S**, was softer and recognized the truth of the gospel, saying "I'll be thrown out of catechism if I accept that!" Later, when we invited the children to pray a prayer of commitment, he quietly shared with **W**, his leader, that he wasn't quite ready. As we complete the first year of sowing into the life of this family, we wonder if the Spirit is dividing them, for when **Mi**, the father, attended an Apologetics Evening back in November, he had been visibly moved. Yet **E**, his wife, appears proud of her RC traditions and is quite hardened by them. **Thank you for praying for this family.** Please pray for their humbling to see Christ as revealed in Scripture and not as taught by RC tradition.

'Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full.' John 16.24. Praying at de-brief meetings (held in different church family homes) every evening, we rejoiced that two boys, **E** and **F**, had committed their lives to Christ whilst another **V**, said joyfully that he'd been converted. Please pray for them. We were also seeing the gospel improve behaviour and change attitudes, even in those new to us. Personally, it was their smiles that I found particularly heart-warming! Even though children might not have professed, many thrived as we prayed we'd be God's blessing to them. Two examples of such would be **Giu** and **Al**, the much-prayed for grandchildren of **R** and **E** who we pray will WANT to return to the after-school club in October. Another example was **Gia**, a pupil of mine, who at first was irritable and closed but a changed boy by the second week; engaging well with the Bible and being kind and considerate towards others.

'...give thanks in all circumstances...' 1 Thess 5.18

Sad to say goodbye in June to ten of our number, including **Aoife**, who, after two precious years of partnership in the student and children's ministries is off to Naples. **Yet**, we've been so thankful for numerical growth overall on Sundays particularly men; for a growing preaching team; for a July prayer meeting full of thanksgiving; for a united, joyous members' meeting that followed a week later; for the establishing of **Torricine Domenica**; for the extraordinary gift of **Via Castiglione 65** as the demolition works start; and finally (at least for now!) for **L's** new birth and baptism as an example of one coming from a RC background who said "No" to faith and works and "Yes" to faith ONLY in the Lord Jesus Christ.



The room
where we'll
worship the
living God.

With love and thanks for every precious prayer prayed. Praying for you all to have good summers as our adventures of faith continue on in different parts of God's Kingdom!

As ever, Penny.

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PRAYER POINTS

- For the countless families we've grown to know and love to recognize Jesus Christ as their only refuge from judgment; running to Him ALONE for salvation, life and purpose amongst His people at **Forle Torre**.
- Thank You Lord for the first parent, **C**, to come to a Sunday service. A parting gift from Aoife who'd taught English to her children throughout the year. Pray she's the first of many and for right future contacts with her.
- For us to trust and know when to let go of some families as the Lord continues to sift.
- We'd enjoy continued consistency at the after-school club as families stick to their verbal commitment to follow us to **Via Castiglione 65** in January 2016, Dv; and we'd see families new to camp this year, sign up.
- For year 6s from the after school club and/or camp to continue with us at **MySpace**; praying specifically for a spiritual hunger in boys **L, Gia, Gia, Giu, F, M, Fr, D, M, F, E, D, R** and in girls **Giu, B, F, As, An, M, K, Al**.
- For the devoted Durham team **W, W, O, G, M, H, H, R, S** to know Christ's leading as they testify faithfully to His Glory in what for some are new church and life contexts after graduation.
- Thanks for Torricine Domenica girls, **K** and **N** who came to camp, marking another first link between church family and camp. May they be the first of many!
- For the Lord to protect **L's** young faith in leading her to a living, loving, faithful local church in England.

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