



March 2016

'This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.' | John 1:5

Dear Friends,



Torricine Domenica team

Forte Torre life **'...God is light ...'** Messages from **JP** proclaiming God's generosity have enlightened our thinking and consequent worship. An omnipotent generosity that saves, down generations and through nations, in God's choosing of a people ultimately and fundamentally at the cost of his Son. His generous instructive love compels us, enabling us to love our neighbours more and more.

Please pray for a living out of this generosity at Forte Torre, a church reflective of many nations with a growing number of men and young people. As we rethink priorities, may we give more of ourselves, time, money and homes to each other, the vulnerable and the outsider. **Please pray** for the unfolding work of the Spirit, opening up dark chambers of our hearts in repentance, enabling Christ's redeeming light to flood in, for **'...in him is no darkness at all.'**

Torricine Domenica E, A and I have worked hard at producing clear, accessible teaching on God's great generosity to our children (age-range four to ten). Lovingly and ably supported by **T, M** and **E,** we've seen up to eight children squeeze into our little cubby-hole this year. Limited by space and not wanting to make too much noise, carefully chosen activities and games include those aimed at learning the books of the Bible. **Thanks for** the maturing response of the children in prayer after each message. **Pray for** the Spirit to help the children live generously and to shine like stars in their homes and schools – five have unsaved fathers, still stubbornly walking in darkness.

Passo a Passo - Step by Step inspired by Christ's opening of **all** Scripture on the Emmaus Road, provides a biblical overview and serves as a follow on to 'Why Jesus?' **Thanks for** a flying start with ten of us, numbers made up of new and old friends - not all believers. **S,** church-accountant and friend commented, **'I was captivated as a child is, listening to a story.'** **Pray for** the darkness of false teaching and idolatry to pass away quickly so that the true light of Christ can shine; and for a hunger in believers to grow in love for God in the light of the Scriptures.





A at her birthday meal

Thanks for A who cries out for God's help with her quiet times and is a great tribute to **Sue's** persevering one-to-one work. Pictured here hosting her "girly" birthday dinner with two unbelievers, **A's** invitation to us expressed her heart to live out God's generosity, 'Remembering the exhortation to live church and taking advantage of any opportunity that presents itself...' Signs of grace now abound: in her public prayers; in her onerous role as church treasurer and in her fervent desire to prioritise her marriage to unsaved **G**. To help prepare for the summer camps and enjoy a more effective partnership with the Durham team, **A** and **G** have weekly English lessons. **Pray** our lessons encourage **A** and for the Lord to be **A's** light and **G's** salvation from a deathly spiritual disinterest.

Teaching work, with its privilege of being involved in the lives of eight families, presents gospel opportunities. Always hoping to invite folk along to **FT** where appropriate, I pray for the Lord to "sift" my clients, taking away those with hearts apparently too hard to penetrate and bringing others who are softer. Many attend the local RC parish and seem contented, if not a little complacent. Sensitive not to appear unhelpfully knowledgeable about the Bible, there's evidence of a receding shadow of darkened thinking. **Thank-you for praying:** the Spirit **is** blowing even though the work is slow. Dinners, for example, in the **N** home have deepened trust. **S** and **F** have confided their concern for **G**, who is showing signs of teenage rebelliousness. **Pray** for them to agree to **G's** request to join classmates, **G, M, M** and **F** at **Exch@nge** Afterschool Club. **Pray also** for the Spirit's revealing work in all these Italian boys. Studying 2 Timothy this term, has (once again) revealed the sticking point for **M** who holds that it's the (RC) 'church', not Christ that saves. Yet, how encouraging to hear **F's** enlightened answer, "Jesus!"



The N family

Thanks for a continued open gospel door at the teenage girls' community care home, resulting in excellent relationships with all the staff. Currently, I'm helping **E** and **B** with their English and studying the Bible with **V**, whose questions range from 'Is it a sin to eat fish on Fridays in Lent?' to 'I don't need to come to church do I?' **Pray for V**, and in time, others to be convicted of the real nature (and consequences) of sin and to find answers to all their questions only in Christ.

Thank you for praying for Via Castiglione where our aim is to glorify Christ both in the working out of the project and with the resulting building. **Please pray for** bureaucratic blocks to be broken; good relationships between those working on site and wise decision-making by the team. As one person has said, 'You at FT are a blessing; I'm thrilled about what you're trying to do – this project is wonderful and I'm delighted to help, to be a part of it!'

Praying with love that you will all bear fruit with patience as you hold fast to the Word,

Penny.

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PRAYER POINTS

- For more of us to participate in **FT's prayer and midweek life** so as to enjoy a deepening of our fellowship and a greater desire to extend God's generosity to **Bologna**.
- For a joyful unity for the **Easter Egg Hunt on 19 March** and for the Afterschool Club families to come, to hear and to respond to the true gospel message.
- For **L**, (**G** and **A's** son) to return to **Torricine Domenica** after a long absence.
- For the Spirit to rip down the veils of shadowy RC doctrine enabling children, youngsters friends, clients and colleagues to see Christ in the Scriptures – may God grant, as a consequence, that they see **FT** as a viable – indeed their only, church option.
- For salvation to come to households of those working on the **building project**.

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