



**November 2016** *'And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'* Joel 2:32

Dear Friends,

**Forte Torre - building a people to praise the Lord Jesus in eternity...** Five weeks in Joel, God's trumpet call, has brought sharply into focus the terrifying prospect the final day of the Lord will be for those who haven't called upon Jesus' name. This is no comforting thought and one seemingly heavier in Italy because of the mediaeval, superstitious nature of a people's deep (and often sub-conscious) reliance on a false theology developed over the centuries by the Papacy and deadly tradition. The longer I live here, the more I sense the oppression: **please pray for my friend, S** whose ('sacramental') sticking point is **'The priest is divine in that moment in which I'm absolved. Yes, I can pray, but I must go to confession...'**



**Pray for** a greater reverence amongst us at **FT** with a greater attendance at midweeks, a greater reliance on prayer and a greater number participating in praying out-loud. May we, in turn, call people **to look into** Christ's Scriptures and **to repent** before a God who, by his very nature, is merciful and patient.

**Pray that** members work harder alongside JP and Sue to love the wider, more varied flock and for a good integration amongst newcomers and the eleven different nationalities. **Give thanks** that about half our number is made up of under 30s, most being students or student workers.

**... and who help reach the next generation in Bologna - University.** Inevitably with the influx of Erasmus students, this work has an international flavour. However, encouraging steps have been made by the **GBU** nationally resulting in more Italians co-ordinating groups, Bologna being one. With two evangelistic events this month, **pray for L, G and G** as they plan and for others as they invite; for believing students to be more motivated by Scripture showing a greater willingness to speak Jesus' name and be more intentional in building friendships with unbelievers; for **V** (Italian) to see Christ as she attends **FT** and weekly GBU studies in Luke. Whilst clear that she's not a believer, she's 'open and intrigued.'

**Pray for** a boldness to live sacrificially amongst the **Agape** workers at **FT, M, M, E and J** led by **A and M**; that they are directed to students thirsty for the gospel as they sow on campus; for students hardened with worldly pre-suppositions to come to bible studies, 1-1s and themed evenings with Spirit-softened hearts towards the truth; for the right people to come to the thanksgiving outreach when they will have the opportunity to respond to Christ's clear call upon their lives; for **G**, (Italian) to come off the fence and turn whole-heartedly to the Lord.

### ...and who help reach next generations in Bologna and beyond – Year 2 Internship.

**Give thanks** for a growing number of full and part-timers; a greater involvement from **Forte Torre**, most of whom are attending the Biblical Theology classes run by **JP**; for pastor-teachers sacrificially pouring themselves out for Italy. **P**, a fervent pastor of a small church in Florence, brilliantly presents the church history module where I'm enjoying rich times of learning with young Italians from Sardinia, Sicily and Bologna. Sobering studies reveal how historically, Roman Catholicism has been



founded on dead, man-centred religion with devastating effects on national and local government, work, culture and family life across generations. **Pray for** the Lord to break these fetters; for interns presently involved in local church ministries at **Nuova Vita, San Lazzaro and FT** to be increasingly sharpened by their studies so as to point many more non-believers to the true saving living God; for future strong Christian marriages and a generosity of heart among Bologna churches in their sending-out of young pastors to church-plant all across Italy.

### Forte Torre - constructing a building in which to worship the Lord until the last day.

**Give thanks** that people are joining us precisely because of our future central location and that despite inevitable hold-ups, we're being blessed by the Lord's help in countless ways.

As we enter the last phase, **please pray** we'd be confident that this help would continue, especially with the twin challenges of timing and finance - it's encouraging to see little gifts accumulating into sizeable sums, displaying a greater generosity amongst Christians here.

**Pray for** a deeper love for the Lord and his purposes amongst the wider body as new folk grasp the potential of this extraordinary gift. Future after school clubs, language classes, parent and toddler groups, food banks, a library, rooms for 1-1s, study groups, a pastor's office, an apartment for co-workers, a bookshop/coffee-stop AND a window onto one of Bologna's most elegant and famous of streets. **Pray for** a final day safety for all site-workers and God's protection over all working relationships, which can cause disruption and unhappiness if poor. **Pray that L's** recent honesty ("I'm an atheist") would lead him to believe that **FT** is a viable alternative to the religious construction of lies that he's (rightfully) rejected. With an institution for the blind a few doors down and an 'institution' for the spiritually blind right on our doorstep, **pray for** the Lord to open the eyes of our neighbours, fellow apartment-block owners and tenants to see, in time, God's gospel of salvation.



With much love to you, as we all await that great and final day,

Penny.

[www.fortetorre.org](http://www.fortetorre.org)

### Please pray for

- the Spirit's outpouring at Forte Torre – that out of our hearts will flow rivers of living water through Bologna streets, homes, places of work and study.
- the Spirit's help with Italian for **L** and Agape workers so they testify more coherently.
- Christ's strength and steadfastness to pervade **FT's** building team; a prayer-given energy and vigour to abound in their weekly meetings; and wisdom for all decisions.

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