



November 2015 The Lord Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." John 6.48

Dear Friends,



Pizza, pasta or bread? What type of food do most Italians love best? BREAD! These are bread slippers! So whenever you eat ciabatta you can impress folk by saying that it's the Italian word for slipper! I took this photo of a witty Italian baker's creation whilst in Trent, the city where c.450 years ago, RC authorities held its Council condemning the "heresies" of Protestantism.

Much of what they decreed still stands today. Sobering! A special time, yes, for **Forte Torre** to enjoy a wonderful weekend away being fed with the living bread from Ephesians; but also a vital time to be strengthened in our efforts to combat entrenched heresies that nullify/compromise the Word of Christ. Considering the Father's grand plan+great purposes for His cosmos, then, was a glorious encouragement! As we recalled that each faithful local church is being established under Christ, in Him+for Him, we praised the Father for, among other things, the immense power He gives to redeem circumstances apparently dead; to give us the security of victory against evil; to free us from anxieties in the uncertainties of life and to work faithfully for the growth of His Church.

Thank-you for being committed to pray for the witness of Christ's living church, Forte Torre.



"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" John 6.33 Whether working with lively children on Sundays at **Torricine Domenica** or on Wednesdays at the two after school clubs, **Exch@nge (new!)+Torricine**, it's hard at times to remember that without the intervention of the Spirit, their hearts will not be

regenerated. **Thank-you for praying** for a crop of Year 6s to make the transition from **Torricine to Exch@nge** giving us further opportunities to feed them "heavenly bread" from Esther. **Praise God** that He's brought **G,M,F,M+K** pictured here and for the way in which two **Forte Torre** children, (**K at Exch@nge + L at Torricine**) have quickly made friends with the others. **Pray for** Christ to bring these 4 boys **from death to life** convincing them that to have a genuine knowledge of the Lord Jesus is to trust only in His Word; for **G** as he leads this ministry to walk in a manner worthy of his calling; for parents at both clubs to say, "Yes" to invitations to Sunday services and/or Perchè Gesù/Why Jesus?

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"..whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35 At Forte Torre... Although we felt the loss as folk moved on in June, others have come to be fed and we are blessed with steady numerical growth. Since Sept, God has brought four American Agape workers, including a family of 5; + two Erasmus students (Eng+Australian). [On recent visits, Sam+Max, my sons, both commented on how much fuller church was.] Worshipping Christ for His authority in the early chapters of Mark, (autumnal preaching series), believing God's Kingdom will grow through His Word+our response in prayer, spurs us on to keep **working faithfully for the growth of Christ's church.....**

.....**In Bologna and beyond** As we head towards our 5th anniversary of public services in January, there's a definite sense of a greater stability. A recognized association with bank account, invitations to take part in community projects, a letter to the police telling them who we are, a confession of faith, an excellent much-visited web-site AND a building!!!

Even more encouraging has been the developing Word ministry gifts of **A,A,A+E**(sisters serving on Suns/Weds, with whom Sue+I work)+of **A,S,D+I**, the Italian preaching team under supervision of JP's loving labours. Dividing this workload, delegating apologetics talks to A, and Perche Gesu? to S has given more time to JP to concentrate on the....

....**NEW Internship** programme. Hard to say how exciting this project is! Heart-warming to know that Bologna pastors are working so hard together to make this happen both by writing material suitable for the Italian context and by offering flexibility for interns to attend part-time+do fewer modules. The five main areas are Holy Scriptures, Biblical Theology, Systematics, Ecclesiology+Pastoral Theology.

Praise God for 7 full-timers+2 part-timers, 6 of whom are Italian.

Pray that, with God's blessing, this initiative will be for now an enormous encouragement, but in time an example to be followed throughout the whole of Italy.

Another means for Bologna believers to be fed+watered is the more established but less onerous

Percorsi (Porterbrook)with its four modules of Character, Bible+Doctrine, Church, World. Apart from Sundays, life can feel like a lonely desert road at times: so Percorsi Sats are oases!

Thank God for c.25 students from 6 different churches,(including **A,L,A+me**)+for **S**, pastor from the recent church-plant in neighbouring Budrio. **Pray for** a willingness to put into practice what we learn from the **whole** counsel of God's Word, resulting in the churches we represent having a "missional" mind-set in defending the gospel and proclaiming the Kingdom.

Thank-you for being committed to pray for the growing maturity of Italians.

"And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." John 6.51

As the six-week **Perchè Gesù?** starts up again on Tues eves, **pray for** the Spirit to humble attendees to accept Christ's Lordship over Creation, receive the incarnated Word, believe in the all-sufficiency of His death for them, see His vindication in the Resurrection, understand He is now exalted and tremble at the truth of His return. Also please **pray for** past attendees, **S,A,D,G** in a **NEW** course, **Passo a Passo (Step by Step)** which will give them the privilege to delve more deeply into the Scriptures in a Bible overview.

Finally, our friend **S** is undergoing chemotherapy once again, please ask the Lord Jesus to help her to know Him, relying **ONLY** on Him, as she reads/listens to His Word alone or in company with Sue.

Praying for you all to see Kingdom growth in the lives of your loved ones and local churches.

With much love as ever, Penny.

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PRAYER POINTS

- For the interns, including **S+G** to study earnestly; for **JP,M,GL,J+P** to be inspired/empowered to write+teach ground-breaking material that'll help train up new pastors + establish new church plants.
- For Agape workers, **K,K,M+B** and **G,G,H+H** who attend GBU meetings to know the Lord's help as they find ways to work together in their commitment to bring gospel life out of the deathly, worldly university life.
- For the Spirit to grant a hunger for Christ's Word in the **Exchange/Torricine** children as the growing team of Italians/Brits proclaim God's Sovereignty over all from the Book of Esther.
- For **Forte Torre** to be united+zealous to see God's Kingdom grow in Bologna+Italy, eager to maintain the bond of peace as new folk are integrated, as expressed in generous giving, serving and getting behind the building project in prayer/action, understanding its HUGE potential for God's Glory.
- For the demolition work to finish quickly; the restoration work to go far more smoothly; for our witness.
- Thanks for Torricine Domenica team of **A,E,P,T,M+E**, the children, **K,N,L,G,E,M,T**+new additions, **H,V+T**; pray for the Church Lunch 16th Nov to be a significant step in the conversion of unsaved fathers, **G,F+L**.
- For the Lord to grant **A+L**, our godly servant-hearted Brazilian couple, the right work so they can stay here.
- For the Spirit to transform unsaved Italians' love for bread (esp **P**, the caretaker of the sala who actually came, with his wife, to a service in July) into love for the living heavenly bread, that is Jesus Christ.

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