



July 2014

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Dan 12.2

Dear Friends,

'Tis the season for summer camps! Wonderfully, the Lord gave us 48 children from 38 families over two weeks of Torricine Bilingue last month. [I teach English to ten children throughout the year and was personally thrilled that five came.] Proclaiming Christ's saving work as King of God's eternal Kingdom and about His (and our) Resurrection seemingly made an impact and we now have a real sense of building on the work of past years. We noticed a marked difference between those we've seen before (i.e. softer, more open) to those who were new to us. The same could be said of conversations with parents, revealing an ever-growing trust and greater insight into who we are (Forte Torre) and what we're about as we held out the historic apostolic gospel amidst what's always been perceived as an excellent work. This was all nothing short of the miraculous work of the Spirit as a prelude, we persistently pray, of His convicting work, in hearts and lives of Italian families.



" And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." Daniel 12.3

With the children's voices still ringing in my ears as they repeated this (and other) memory verses from Daniel, I took time out yesterday to reflect a while before writing to you all and here are some....

HIGHLIGHTS: in prayerful thanks for the privilege of sewing in Italian soil with such servant-hearted co-workers:-

- Eager way in which all children listened to the messages, how most were engaged with the Word in group-times and happily attentive during the memory verse games. Many had never been

taught about Daniel – and they were gripped! [Praise our God of Salvation History for His Eternal Word!](#)

- **Sue's** excellent preparatory work on both the spiritual and overall daily programme and for her desire and her example to run a joyful and tight ship for the Glory of Christ.

- **Younger brothers and sisters** C, E, J, J, J, R + S from Christ Church Durham who stepped out of their comfort zones + over language barriers to love and serve the Lord Jesus from dawn to dusk, giving us two weeks out of their summer hols.

- **W**, who led the Durham team with grace and who stepped up to give a talk in Italian + lead a Bible Study group.

- **B**, (@Forte Torre as part of her year abroad) who was a



marvellous help before camp with visual aids and English prep and who then gave a talk and led a group Bible study during camp.

- **R** lovingly labouring to produce haute cuisine (not sure how the French slipped in!) for 60 each day: a big factor in Italian parent's decision-making process in weighing up our camp as opposed to others! Honestly!

- **A**, Italian sister @FT, who gave a talk, led a group and inspired us all by doing camp in the morning before quickly changing into work-mode for her afternoons in the office in town.

- **JP's strengthening** of the team as he reminded us of our biblical authority to teach, helped us to deepen our understanding of RC context and led morning prayers with expositional thoughts on the day's passage equipping us to pray for the salvation of the families in specific ways. He led a group with the oldest children.

- **R+E, M, S+E, D+E, brothers and sisters @FT**, who opened up their homes for us, fed and watered and encouraged us with their prayers as we fed-back, prepped and prayed in readiness for the next day.



Lavoretti (Craft hour) when we could talk to the children one-one and go over the memory verse with them. The MV was then stuck on that craft: God's Word in the home! **11 year old S** told me that she and her brothers, **F+A** discussed the verse and the story every night with their Dad. They were one of the families who took a Bible.

Park Outings... Whilst we were so thankful for the sala and increasingly good relations with neighbours, we were always glad to get out to play. Walking to and from the park also gave us valuable time to chat. **A, an 11 year old** asked me

thought about the town of Assisi and saints, **L, another 11yr old girl** made significant steps of progress in chats w Sue whilst in the company of other girls, **G, G, R, A, S**. We pray she got them thinking too! As I listened to JP, W + others report back on gospel conversations with **G, F, A, G, F, all older boys**, I realised the mountain ahead that we have to climb in order to change mind-sets. Not all parents send their children to catechism but they would be examples of those who have turned their back on the church. What a wonderful privilege, I then thought, that the Lord has given us the opportunity to reach all these families.



Next month, I'll write more on the first summer camp for teenagers on the west-side of town, give an update on the puppet ministry and news on the building. For now, I'll sign off with un abbraccio grande in Cristo (a big hug in Christ) and an on-going assurance of my thankful prayers for you all. Have a great summer!



Penny.

PRAYER POINTS

- For the Lord, in His mercy, to raise each child and each family to everlasting life.
- For the Spirit to continue His convicting work in the hearts of all the children so that they are the 'wise' who lead others to righteousness in the next generation. With this in mind, pray particularly for F, a 10yr old boy who's been with us since the start of Torricine. His parents, F+R have supported us magnificently so pray for them and all Torricine parents to come to our **Eve with a Theme** in October: "All roads lead to Rome?" or to a Sunday service so that they see us a credible alternative to the local RC "parochia" parish.
- For a mother, E to keep her word and come to Perchè Gesù? May she be one of many!
- For God's Word to continue to speak life and light into Italian homes through the MV craft, bible studies but above all that those who took Bibles will read them.
- Good uptake for TB throughout the year enabling us to have more consistent overlap with families. In instances where families have a choice between Wed-eve catechism classes or Torricine, may they choose wisely! One father appeared to overrule a mother when she raised this as an obstacle, saying, "We'll see!"
- For wisdom and workers so we can continue ministering to 11+ year olds throughout the school year.
- To start praying now that we'd have more from FT on the team next year.

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