



Dear Friends,

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." John 8:58

Italians LOVE their bimbi/bambini/ragazzi (children)! Yet, it's unusual to come across large families (the average is 1.27) Children stay up late and rarely have a bedtime routine. The world stops for children in Italy in a way that it does not anywhere else. From the beginning they are treated as real, precious people, whose needs and desires are of paramount importance. Italians bend over backwards for children, keeping little baskets consistently filled with bread sticks and focaccia and offering other presents like sweets and fruit. NO PRESSURE then as we seek to win whole families for the Lord Jesus through the puppet ministry, the Torricine Bilingue summer camps and the after school club. No pressure then to present the Lord Jesus as the eternal Son against the Roman Catholic backdrop that keeps Him firmly as a helpless babe in the arms of Mary, (Queen of Heaven). Our greatest challenge remains to teach the truth about Jesus Christ. For one reason or another, Italian parents, (even if they are non-church goers themselves) often send their children to RC catechism, which can lead them to learn and recite things like "Maria (Mary) is the only perfect human being." We seek to teach the true Gospel of Christ, and praise God when we hear statements like, "I'm not a good person who sometimes does bad things, but the other way round."



Puppets! Let's give thanks to our faithful God who loves to surprise us!

Although rain stopped play on two of the Sundays, we thank God for all the goodwill generated amongst families (and students!) by Forte Torre under le due Torri (the two towers). Whether a clown or a puppet, singer or a face-painter, a balloon blower-upper or a bubble-blower, a scene-shifter or a theatre-builder, we saw the message as central to a super little show that made it easy to speak of the Lord Jesus, the eternal Son by whom all things were made. Conversations flowed and invites to TB after school club, the

upcoming Buona Domanda and Perché Gesu? were given out to many. Whilst so far, there's been no direct uptake on these, the surprise has been A, who spotted one of us at the station, sporting a red T-shirt with



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our web-site details. Shortly after, by divine providence, some of us had an ice-cream in the gelateria where she works and she's now coming to church regularly. Please pray on for contacts made, for folk to look us up on the recently up-dated (beautiful!!) web-site, for interested families and a student called M to come to Forte Torre in God's time. Please pray for us as we consider the future of this ministry: that we would know the Lord's wisdom in every decision.



Torrincine Bilingue! Let's give thanks to our God of grace who loves to encourage us!

For the first time, we've seen children (D and E) from the summer camp join the after school club. As we teach a Bible overview, we're already humbled that the 15 children given to us have settled and are listening well to the talks. Meanwhile trust is building in conversations with new parents and we pray the Lord will turn trust in us into trust in Him.

Forte Torre! Let's give thanks to our God of love as we rely on His Spirit's convicting power to add to our number.

Through the ministry of the word and prayer, we're rejoicing that Christ has been building His Church this autumn. Through faithful, clear, prophetic preaching by GP and most recently Samuele, in Ecclesiastes and Galatians and through two weekly prayer meetings, God has given us a crop of youngsters including Al, a male Italian student, an Irish female student-worker, an American girl married to an Italian and four English girls all here short-term. And so, it's been onward into October with Buona Domanda, (Good Question) which saw three guests (S, G and G) as well as many of the new folk in church. Now that our autumn Perchè Gesù? course has just started, we're rejoicing that it's being so well attended. During our Midweeks we're considering our confession of faith. These are warm, friendly uplifting times: important as young and old mix and get to know Christ and each other better. Our 92 year old (who lives inside the city walls), who was hosting for the first time, chuckled: "I've never seen so many people in this house: never!" Well, there were 16 of us!

With love and prayers for you all as I thank God for our partnership in building His world-wide church,

Penny.

PLEASE PRAY...

- for a joyful, thankful, loving team @TB; happy children who are eager to learn (English too!) but ultimately for the Lord's mercy on these families.
- for A, A, C and others at PG? as they consider the sufficiency of the eternal Son's birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and return: that through November, we'd see new births.
- for us during our individual and corporate times of prayer to be praying earnestly and steadfastly for unbelieving friends, family, colleagues and to seize all opportunities to witness to them of the love of God in Christ.
- for us to live out what we've heard as we throw our bread upon the waters, never count the cost and gently persuade those trusting in RC legalism to see they've been misled and to know that it is those of faith who are the true sons of Abraham.
- for us to wait on the Lord to provide us with a building of His choice and be committed to working together towards this end so we can continue to build Forte Torre for the Glory of Christ.

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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