

JULY 2019



Dear faithful prayer supporters,

'The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works.' Titus 3:8

Sabbatical

After 11 challenging years of founding the work, Forte Torre kindly granted JP a sabbatical period (May-August) in which to step back temporarily from the daily ministry. Alongside necessary rest, the time has allowed work on longer-term priorities:

- a) **Visiting churches in Italy:** an opportunity to visit and teach in other churches nationally, to speak with pastors and have a greater grasp of what's happening elsewhere.
- b) **Building longer-term church relationships:** the opportunity to renew and deepen contacts/friendships with pastors and churches. There is huge need for building trusted relationships of greater inter-church co-operation, in what is a small and fragmented world.
- c) **Training resource Applicazione:** the biblical study course Applicazione is finally online, with various courses now available in audio and video form along with handouts, across theological disciplines (www.corsiapplicazione.it). This is a huge work of faith, with much time invested over the years. Its aim is to offer faithful input to many over future years.
- d) **Writing the next series volume on Numbers:** With 'Leviticus' published this spring, much sabbatical time has been spent digging deep in the book of Numbers, as JP writes the next volume of the series.

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Happy end to Applicazione course on Exodus.

- Pray for various fragile but real Italian congregations set on living for Christ (Mantua, Florence, Isola, Rome, Naples, Vasto, Pescara).
- Pray for godly wisdom on how to connect pastors and churches together meaningfully, building on trusted relationships to create more 'formal' structures.
- Pray 'Applicazione' may become a resource known, used and of great benefit to many.
- Pray that the publications expounding bible books (www.coramdeo.it/negozio/genesi-nel-principio) will stimulate others to prepare diligently for word ministry in Italy.

Studies

Sue completed the second of three gruelling Delta modules on teaching English at advanced level, and is hoping to conclude the masters' diploma in London by end of August.

Whilst re-typing a 45-page extended assignment due to computer gremlins, the Lord greatly encouraged Sue on the 'why' of it all, as a former state school colleague contacted her proposing new work for the autumn in Liceo Galvani - the high-flying grammar school almost directly opposite our new church building! We have prayed for an open door into Galvani, as it's such an important school in Bologna, and it would be wonderful to be able to recruit for camp from there in years to come. The Lord is Sovereign and hears our prayers!

- **Pray for an open door for Forte Torre into the school that will be fruitful for the gospel.**
- **Pray for good (future) relationships in the staff room and for appropriate 'fishing', based on a faithful testimony built in an academic context.**

Summer camp highlights

What joy to be in our own building this year! It was a blessing in disguise that we weren't huge camps as it gave greater opportunity to familiarise ourselves with camp day routine in our new space. We particularly prayed for God to give us two new family contacts locally; there followed a last minute sign-up of one family, whilst another stopped by church with camp in full swing, wanting to sign their children up to after-school club!

We are so thankful that two former Torricine and Exchange campers helped us as our first assistant leaders. There were excellent opportunities to bring gospel input into their lives over 10 days! Both boys seem open to read the Bible regularly with G from church! Whilst the 'Exchange' camp (11-16s) saw our best talks yet, with Forte Torre members much involved.

- **Pray on for new core families living in the centre to sign-up children to the weekly English clubs (evangelistic) ministry.**
- **Give thanks for the excellent servant-hearted camp team formed from Christchurch Durham students working alongside Forte Torre.**
- **Pray that both youngsters and first-time assistant leaders will read the Bible one-to-one with us at church from the autumn.**

Sad goodbyes

Summer always brings mixed emotions as we lose people dear to us, with students finishing studies and co-workers moving on. This year we feel particularly sore as we say goodbye to two fantastic co-workers – Luigi and Jo...

Luigi has served wholeheartedly with us for three years, improving greatly in Italian, serving in many aspects of church life, significantly strengthening the student ministry, reading the Bible with younger men and learning skills for long-term church planting in Italy. He celebrates his final month with us by covering JP's sabbatical! His contribution amongst the men, the students and the camp work has been very great. His laughter and zeal for fishing will be sorely missed. From September he begins studying at Oak Hill, aiming to return to Italy in three years to begin a new work in another key Italian city-centre!



Luigi and Jo at the end of camp

With us in 2019, Jo has demonstrated great perseverance and joyful willingness to put her hand to the plough in innumerable aspects of behind-the-scenes tasks. Not least in the painstakingly long and slow uploading, editing and filing of many hours of lessons, grouped together and packaged to enable the launch of the Applicazione website! We have work to do in advertising the various first courses across the theological disciplines, particularly as a training tool in exegesis and bible handling. Jo has helped us reach first launch! She has also helped in countless other ways: weekly clubs, camps, the bookshop, and meeting and reading the Scriptures with girl students!

- **Pray with great thanks for Luigi and Jo, grateful to Christ for their heartfelt service.**
- **Pray that in years to come Italy would have another city-centre faithful local church, declaring Jesus and the historic faith, for the conversion of many Italians.**
- **Give great thanks for the arrival of Jonny and Ruth Pullar with us from September!**