

November 2021



Dear faithful prayer supporters,

*'When the parents brought in the child Jesus ... Simeon took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'* Luke 2:28-32

We probably all know the joy of holding a new baby in our arms. At Forte Torre we are in the midst of a baby boom! But just imagine Simeon's joy in the temple courts! He had been waiting patiently all his life for this moment. And now he held the long-expected King of Israel in his arms. Yearned for centuries – THE promised Saviour! Through this tiny little baby, what was lost by war and disaster would be found, what was sick by sin and guilt would be healed, what was destroyed by hate and injustice would be restored. The God of all the earth had revealed His Saviour. Not only for Israel but for all peoples!

- Praise God that this is our joy today! That we know THE message of salvation that was preached, first in Jerusalem, then over centuries to the ends of the earth.
- Praise the Lord it has always been His plan that young and old, peoples from every nation, would by faith embrace this Saviour.
- Thanks to the Lord for new babies at Forte Torre, G, A, N and two more on the way. Pray that one day they would understand and see the great light that has come to those living in darkness.

This month we write to you on the theme of light.

### **Light for the nations**

Bologna, unlike some other Italian cities, is full of folk from all over the world. Sunday services this term have become quite overwhelming. Colombian, Peruvian, Iranian, Nicaraguan, Dutch, Ethiopian, Belgian, French and Argentinian students have been visiting us.

- Give thanks that the nations in our midst are hearing the gospel.
- Pray we at Forte Torre would be 'hospitable' in the real sense of the word, loving the foreigner in our midst.
- Pray we would be a church that takes real care of individuals; that we would seize the opportunities to serve all, with prayer and opened Scripture during the week.



### A lamp for our feet

Through the summer and early Autumn, the preaching series at FT was from Psalm 119. Our meditation on this Psalm culminated at our church weekend away, where the saints had opportunity to reflect on their personal daily meditations in God's word.

- Give thanks for the times of fellowship for a growing church family (photos of our first weekend in 2014 (above), compared to now (below).
- Pray for many members of Forte Torre to resolve, with the help of God's Spirit, to meet Jesus in his word daily. Pray that this lamp would indeed direct our steps and transform our lives, for the good of this city.
- Pray for the 3-8 year olds, who had their own programme on a series focused on humility including Naaman, Nebuchadnezzar, Moses and John the Baptist. Pray they would know one day how God opposes the pride but gives grace to the humble.

### The Lord is my light and salvation

We have a handful of teenagers in church and we're encouraged by one lad G who seems to have come into the light of Jesus this past year. This

term:

- Pray for studies in Ephesians for our 'churched' teenagers, that they would understand the clear difference between what it means to be in darkness and what it means to be light in the Lord.
- Pray for the different families hosting these studies over Sunday lunches and for S overseeing the project. Pray that all involved would declare the praise of him who has brought us out of the kingdom of darkness.
- Pray for the health and restoration of a dear brother Y who's recently withdrawn from his responsibility in caring for our teens at FT.
- This term we had no sign ups for our midweek afterschool club Exchange for teens. Pray for different open doors to reach this crucial age in our city, and that some of our campers would tag along to Seekers (our cross-church monthly study for teens – publicity on the right).



### A light has dawned

After several years of not running this course, this week starts a new cycle of studies in our evangelistic Bible overview course, over six evenings (from Origins...to the Law...to the Kingdom...to Exile...to Christ...to proclamation).

- Pray that the Spirit would illumine mind and heart of all those who will attend this course; that they may see the centrality of Jesus!
- Pray new believers would be excited to see one story across all of Scripture, and this would strengthen their faith and inspire them in their own Bible reading.

Sending our love and thanking God for you in your walk as children of light.

JP and Sue xx

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