



*JP's biblical expository series*

***'You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and by His Name you shall swear. He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.' Deuteronomy 10:20-21***

The closing words of Moses to the second generation of God's people in Deuteronomy are unparalleled in the richness of their exhortations. This fifth and final book of the Law highlights how God's established covenant with Israel has 'relationship' at its heart; clearly seen in the verbs recalled above ('fear...serve...hold fast'). This month we pick up this Deuteronomistic theme, traced across: JP's writing, our two-week summer camp in June, Forte Torre's decision regarding the 'Bologna Ovest' project, and the painful yet joyful passing of Susan's father, Bill.

## 1. Deuteronomy book

More than five years have passed since JP finished the fourth volume (on Numbers!) of a biblical expository series. In the abundant grace of God, after much stopping-and-starting, the completed text of the fifth volume on Deuteronomy is now ready! At Forte Torre, we've preached through this stunning book over recent years (in four separate series); it's in fact amongst the most quoted Scriptural books in the New Testament, third only to Isaiah and Psalms! It has been an extraordinarily rich and challenging experience of writing: slow, tough, disjointed and disrupted; but with the end now in sight!

- **Pray for the final processes of external editing of the text**, and for the publisher 'Coram Deo' to be diligent, professional and transparent in the way it manages the project.
- **Pray for this book, along with the previous four, to reach the desks and bookshelves** of preachers, pastors, students, local churches, that it may create a deeper hunger for reading, studying and expounding all the Scriptures, that Christ's people in Italy may be strengthened deeply in the faith, resulting in Christians who 'fear the Lord, serve Him and hold fast to Him.'

## 2. Sumer camps

June as ever is the time of summer camps. This year we're running a two-week camp, for 9–13-year-olds, with an excellent Assistant Leader team to boot. Our talk scheme is on Romans 8, whilst ALs have been studying Daniel. Though small (20 campers in all, with 7 ALs), a real encouragement this year is to see our own Forte Torre youngsters inviting friends. Every year our resources seem fragile, but by us living in deep dependence on prayer and preparation, the Lord Jesus is clearly at work, revealing himself to some who've known nothing of the gospel before. Our prayer is that Christ would draw a

number of these youngsters into lifelong discipleship, that they might 'fear Him, serve Him and hold fast to Him.'

- **Pray for lasting lifechanging fruit** amongst the 20 campers, and 7 assistant leaders.
- **Pray for families** of children on camp to come under Forte Torre's ministry all year round.
- **Pray for the church to 'own' this work increasingly** (so that planning, organising and running of camp is long-term in the hands of Italian Christians).



*Summer camp with 9-13-year-olds*

### 3. Bologna Ovest

Our members' meeting in early July will formulate a definitive response to the 'Bologna Ovest' project (whether this work should become a fully-fledged church plant, or halt for now). There are many positives taking shape, but some questions remain; only a small core has formed around the work, and the fellowship's exploration and participation in services has been patchy.

- **Pray for godly, humble discernment on behalf of members**, on whether we should officially establish a new church plant.
- **Pray for S & E** to mature a conviction in the Lord on whether to lead the project long-term.
- **Pray for a perceptive awareness of the cost of such a decision**, in terms of 'handing over' key people and resources of Forte Torre to this new work (S over the years has been JP's most faithful and regular co-worker).
- **Pray for stronger meaningful ties longer-term**, between Forte Torre and its church plants (Stupenda Grazia, Modena and possibly Bologna Ovest). It is too easy to neglect each other, in the busyness of local church life. Pray Jesus would use these (potentially) three distinct churches for reaching many, in the towns of Bologna and Modena.

### 4. Bill Highton

Finally, Susan's father Bill has recently passed away, at the wonderful age of 93 years, after many decades of love and service of Jesus. Do pray for family members, as with a spirit of thanksgiving, we hold Bill's funeral on Tuesday 24 June. Both he, and his wife Doreen, whom the Lord took last year, 'feared the LORD, served Him and held fast to Him.'

- **Give thanks for countless carers, district nurses and hospice**, who accompanied Dad, and pray for their salvation, through the witness given.

With love and thanks for your prayers; may the LORD continue to be your praise!

JP and Sue



*Sue and her Dad*