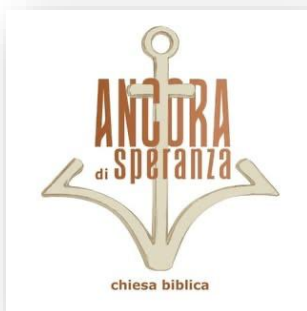


*'And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.'* (Isaiah 60:3)

How wonderful to read at the beginning of Matthew's Gospel of the Son of David, worshipped by those Gentile astrologers who travelled from afar, to come and see the light. Then by the end of the Gospel, we hear Jesus commanding his disciples to go and tell *all nations*. We remember therefore this Advent how the Lord always thought it too light a thing to restore the exiled tribes of Israel, but rather desired his salvation to reach the *ends of the earth*. How good therefore to be working in a city where many nations are present, and we can proclaim the light to those who are in darkness. Yesterday we baptised a lovely lady **A**, who said in her testimony that she was blind for years, and now sees the light (Susan has read Romans with her one to one). Praise the Lord!



A's baptism



Bologna West

We finally said goodbye to **S** and family, who is now pastoring the church plant in the west of Bologna. We can give thanks for the close-knit core that are meeting every Sunday at "Ancora di Speranza". Despite different life circumstances and nationalities, **S** reports that he is seeing a growing unity of spirit and humility. Various preachers from Forte Torre have visited and the fledgling church has also received support from other churches, i.e. funding for the website, Bibles, equipment.

- Pray for the Lord Jesus to build this church, adding to their number in 'Zona Barca' of Bologna.
- We praise God for their desire to share Christ with their contacts and relatives, and pray with them for the fruit of new birth.
- Give thanks that from January, **S** will be reducing his normal work by another day, to give more time to the ministry of word and prayer (two days funded).

Hunger for God

Both our Weekend Away (end of October) on the theme of our 'Daily devotions' with the Lord, and the preaching series on 'Fasting' in November have been challenging us as a church to think through our desires. The prayer from this teaching is that Forte Torre would be a family that seeks God above all things, hungering after him rather than fleeting pleasures, revealed in humble repentance and faith.

- Pray the Lord would reorder our priorities, expressing devotion to Christ above all else, and relying on his power, that the nations around us would see we belong to the light.
- Thanks for happy times of fellowship on the Weekend Away across the three churches (Forte Torre, Stupenda Grazia in Modena, Ancora di Speranza Bologna West). Pray that the Lord would use our ties for multiplying ministry in Italy.



Church Weekend Away

Son of David

Susan's fourth book in the series 'All about Jesus' has finally gone to print. This volume is entitled 'The Son of David.' Over five chapters, the greater Son is described from the David narrative. Can you guess the stories!

- (i) As a shepherd looks after sheep, he looks after his people.
 - (ii) As a prince is strong and mighty, he delivers his people from all harm.
 - (iii) As a powerful King, he has enemies who hate his authority.
 - (iv) As a ruler judges rightly whilst awaiting his throne, he guarantees justice and peace.
 - (v) As his palace is full of riches and majesty, his glory is known throughout the world.
- Pray for the publishing house: Coram Deo. They have had a demanding term logistically. They need to buy new premises for the long-term sustainability of their ministry.
 - Pray for an open door to publish the book series in English (negotiations with one particular publishing house are still ongoing).
 - Pray for children among the nations to love, worship and serve the Son of David, as a tangible fruit from reading this book.



Lego Party

Lego Party

At our third Lego Party, we give thanks there were 25 children from our neighbourhood, only two of which were our own. A clear message was given on the tower of Babel: how we all love building a name for ourselves, and yet God the Father has exalted the name of his Son Jesus amongst the nations!

- Thanks for two lads in particular **M** and **M**, who are coming to afterschool club every week, having never heard the gospel before.
 - Pray for those who were offended by the message at the Lego Party; for God's mercy on one family who physically walked out!
 - Give thanks for conversations held during the morning, about the state of the human heart, with both parents and children.
- Pray the nations would come to the light of Christ as a result of such events.

With thanks for your prayers for the work here in Bologna and beyond.

With love this Advent,

JP and Susan