

MARCH 2021



Dear faithful prayer supporters,

'In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his GRACE, which he lavished upon us...' Ephesians 1:7-8

We write this giving thanks afresh for the redemption which the triune God has worked. God *has* abundantly **lavished** us with his free and immense grace in his Beloved. This redemption is all the more wonderful when we meditate on the fact that the Lord planned it before the foundation of the world and the effects of redemption are past, present and future. Past: we know the joy of past sins forgiven, we're free from all past guilt and no longer under wrath. Present: we are released from an empty futile way of living handed down to us from our forefathers and are now able to live differently (1 Peter 1:18-19). Future: with the deposit of the Spirit already, we will see the redemption of our bodies with all our defects of body and soul removed forever. Wonderful grace for a glorious redemption, all paid for dearly by Jesus!

Grace seen in others

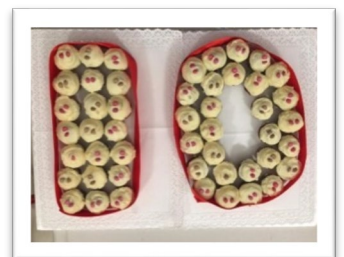
It has been good (especially at the recent milestone of **ten years of public services at Forte Torre**) to take stock of God's grace seen in others. We have seen the Lord at work in you our faithful givers and supporters, and in brothers and sisters the Lord has blessed us to run with at Forte Torre. At a special service, we remembered the many miracles of grace since that first public service on 10 January 2011. Celebrations were all the more exciting because the **new Modena church plant** started their public services that very same day. **Stupenda Grazia**, the name of the new church, is not only a dream but a reality!

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There is now a group of about 15 – 20 people meeting on a Sunday afternoon in Modena. Visiting them felt like a huge déjà vu of Forte Torre in her early years! With Emily on the piano in a rented hall and not a few empty seats! It does look humanly weak and fragile but we know the Lord doesn't despise the day of small things. They had their first evangelistic 'Buona Domanda' event yesterday evening, with two guests present.



- **Pray** for Dani and Emily as they oversee this little plant, especially since they have the distraction of the whole family being positive with COVID and Emily's father dying of cancer.
- **Pray** for the men from Forte Torre who will support the preaching at the church in the first year. Pray that ministers of the word will grow up internally.

- **Give thanks** for the little core that has formed and for peaceable conversations with neighbouring churches so far.
- **Give thanks** that Dani's work has allowed him to temporarily work part-time, allowing him to dedicate a long weekend to this ministry.
- **Pray** that this would not be the last church plant we see born out of the ministry at Forte Torre. Pray for an ongoing generosity in sending workers to serve other new historic town-centre churches in Italy.



Grace for each day

JP continues to labour away writing, teaching and recording material for Corsia Applicazione – offering various biblical theological courses online at www.corsiapplicazione.it. At the end of last year, we invested in a new functionality on the site, allowing potential students to contribute a tiny fee towards the courses. Thankfully this expense has been covered by a flurry of activity. It has always been our desire to equip others beyond Bologna, so to hear of little groups from different churches in Piemonte and Abruzzo logging into these courses is very encouraging. JP has also been approached to teach Hebrew in partnership with a bible institute in Rome. The thinking is partly to try and expand the network of contacts who could potentially benefit from Applicazione nationwide. Next month, the church will savour the opportunity of having a short systematic theology course on Irenaeus, the church father that JP studied for his PhD.



- **Pray** for stamina and wisdom for JP as he works out how to pace himself for the long haul!
- **Give thanks** that some of our men will contribute to the writing of introductory church history materials for next year.
- **Pray** that some Roman Catholic friends may even sign up to this course on the church father Irenaeus.
- **Give thanks** for Nicola and Mike, who are huge assets technically, recording and uploading the files onto the site.
- **Pray** for more able bible expositors to emerge from these courses for Jesus' Church in Italy.

Grace to praise and sing about

Before the purchase and completion of our building project, we have always prayed that there would be a multiplication of ministries at Forte Torre that serve the city and reach new groups of people. At the turn of the year the Lord heard our prayer in adding to our afterschool clubs with more pre-school children signing up from the immediate neighbourhood. Also Barbara, a new member of Forte Torre, has proposed running a course of music workshops for pre-schoolers. Apparently there's great demand for this sort of thing (!) and so she wants to exploit her training and musical gifts to reach some more families.

- **Pray** that covid does not impede new families signing up to this course.
- **Give thanks** that new members of Forte Torre are keen to use their gifts and serve the neighbourhood in this venture.
- **Pray** for long-term fruit of new birth among families drawn into this initiative.



Sending our love – rejoicing in his grace with you!

JP and Sue xx



Prayer points

- **Praise** the triune God for his abundant grace that has worked our redemption.
- **Praise** the Lord for grace seen in YOU our great army of supporters, and in brothers and sisters over ten years of public services at Forte Torre.
- **Praise** God for the start of the Modena church plant – Stupenda Grazia. **Pray** that they would be effective in reaching Modenesi with the gospel of grace.
- **Pray** for the ministry of Applicazione to continue to prosper.
- **Pray** for signups for a new evangelistic initiative at Forte Torre – a preparatory music workshop for toddlers.

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