

thewhitesinspain

April 2015

Dear St James,

After a stormy and wet spring it seems like summer is starting to arrive; it is one of our favourite seasons here with the orange blossom on the trees filling the air with perfume and signs of new life bursting out everywhere. We have had a very full but exciting spring, during March Valencia celebrated the 'Fallas' festival which is a Spring religious and cultural festival where huge wood and fibreglass statues are erected over the city (some as high as a 7 story building – see photos below) and then on the final night of San Jose (or Joseph the father of Jesus) they are burnt. It is 2 weeks of fireworks, huge bangs and explosions any time of the day and night as well as many religious parades. The people will dress in specially made traditional dresses which can cost 1000s of Euros. For me it's a time of mixed emotion, seeing thousands lining the streets and carrying flowers to create a huge statue of Mary made from flowers; I am amazed by the effort, devotion but sad that the people are so far from Jesus. He's offering real life a world away from these religious acts, He wants hearts not money, He wants relationship not religion and when He does things they are far more incredible than the best fireworks!



Signs & Wonders

In contrast to the Fallas festival we had the honour of hosting a team of 12 from Bethel Church, California. Led by our great friends Juan & Irene Lopez they were a group of young people from their School of Supernatural Ministry. We had a full schedule of meeting amongst our churches and with 2 churches in Valencia where God has been connecting our hearts recently. I could fill 5 pages with stories of the things God did during the 3 days they were with us!! So much healing of people's hearts, freedom from past, encouragement through prophetic words, people receiving Jesus. We also witnessed over 15 miracles of healing including frozen shoulders instantly set free, knee & back problems, hearing problems, arthritis, depression and more all healed in the amazing name of Jesus!! In Naquera everyone who came for healing was healed many from long term disabilities and illness. An Algerian Muslim man who has been coming over the last year was healed of arm and back pains and knows it was Jesus who did it!! All healing is amazing to me but the one that left the biggest impression was watching a man who had one leg 2cms shorter than the other grow in front of my eyes! He then took the special insert out of his one shoe and threw it in the bin as he no longer needed it!!

Hungry for more

This time with the team from Bethel has left us with a deep hunger for this to be a regular part of our church life and experience. We have seen God do many miracles in the past but not so many at one time. In Naquera in the following weeks it has made a lasting impression with the people and we have been pointing them to Jesus the Healer and only one who can transform their lives. Please pray that this will lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus for the people in the churches. My constant prayer is that they would personally know Jesus as a living, loving, life changing God who demands everything from them but in return gives real life! For any it's such a huge leap in understanding and culture to realise that they can know God personally, not just as religious icon or good luck charm but in a real way

Investing in Relationships

The church in Puzol has just had the final season of the HTB marriage course which was run by our colleagues Andrew and Jess. It was really well attended and life changing for many of the couples for whom this was the first time they had input and teaching like this. This coming weekend Andrew and I are taking a group of over 20 men to the mountains for a retreat. We are camping in wooden cabins, having BBQs and paellas cooked over fire, and have an exciting program of team building/personal development activities alongside teaching and ministry on the theme of wholeness, calling and identity. Please pray people come with hunger, open hearts and that Andrew and I have wisdom, anointing and capacity to run and facilitate this time.

Investors wanted for exciting business idea!!!

I have mentioned before how one of my desires is to help people set up small businesses. There is a family God has placed on my heart who are really struggling financially and I have seen an exciting way to help them. They are a couple in their early 30s with a young daughter who are so poor last summer they were collecting snails to eat. The husband is very skilled in building but due to the recession can't find work. He is hard working and a gifted mechanic and they have space where he fixes cars for friends. He does amazing work with limited tools lying on his back! He has a bad back and this is very painful for him. They have a garage which I want to help them set up as a workshop where he can start fixing cars professionally. My plan is to buy a hydraulic car lift (which I have found) a basic diagnostic computer and a couple of specialist tools to get him started. I am looking for 10 people who would be willing to give £100 each to help finance this project and I am going to give some money too. We don't make a habit of asking for money but this small investment could be life changing for this family. If you would like to be involved please let me know, I want to get this running by the start of summer.



Please Pray

For the Men's Retreat that it would run smoothly and be a life changing time for the men and a time of deepening friendships and sense of community in the church.

For the new business that the investment will come quickly so that this family can provide for themselves. That God would bless this project.

For more of Holy Spirit moving amongst us, healing, setting free and revealing Jesus to the world around us!

God bless you and thank you for being a part of this,

Love Chris, Liz, Leo & Samuel