

thewhitesinspain

February 2015

Dear St James,

We are just coming out of an unseasonably cold January across Spain with -15 recorded on the mountains in the state of Valencia and even a snow flurry on Valencia's Malvarosa beach, which can't happen many times a century! As we can start to see the first signs of Spring and start to feel the warmth again I am reminded of the spiritual awaking that we long to see. Spring has come to Spain every year without fail and without people thinking about it, but maybe this year can be a time when something different happens, when suddenly they understand the purpose of existence. To be made alive, forgiven and washed clean by the Creator of the Universe and connected to Him in a deep way not in some dead religion. Although things at time can be frustratingly slow we keep preaching the Gospel, loving people, giving everything away so that people know a God of action and not just words! I was thinking the other day how many people were around Jesus for so long and still didn't get it. But we carry on for those that did/will and slowly start to see transformation in people lives.



Painful History

Spain's recent history has been one of great suffering and un-imaginable atrocities committed during and after the Civil War. In Naquera some of the church people have started to open up about their experience, which is not often talked about. One day one of our key men in the church, who is on a journey from atheism to Christ, started to tell me his story. When he was 8 soldiers came to his house, the house where we started having church meetings, took out his father and grandma and executed them in front of him. Another lady in the church lost both her mother and father to TB before she was 12 and had to help raise her siblings on her own. Underneath the houses in Naquera still today is a secret tunnel system used during and after the war to hide wanted Republican soldiers as Franco sought to 'clean up' after the war. Only God knows how this has affected the people here but so many, especially the men are shut down emotionally. The women too suffered terrible abuse, rape and shame during this time. Jesus can, and will, make all things new in these people's lives but we need so much love, wisdom and discernment to know how to support them and help them in this process.

Moving forward

The 3 churches are seeing regular numbers most weeks now with a core of around 20 coming to Naquera every week, this is encouraging as numbers always used to drop the week we weren't giving out food but now there seems to be a genuine desire from people wanting to get to know God.

Chris has re-started the cell group meeting in the house of one of the new believers in the next town to Naquera called Serra. The church was always intended to serve both towns but until recently we had no people from Serra; now half the congregation come from there which is very exciting.

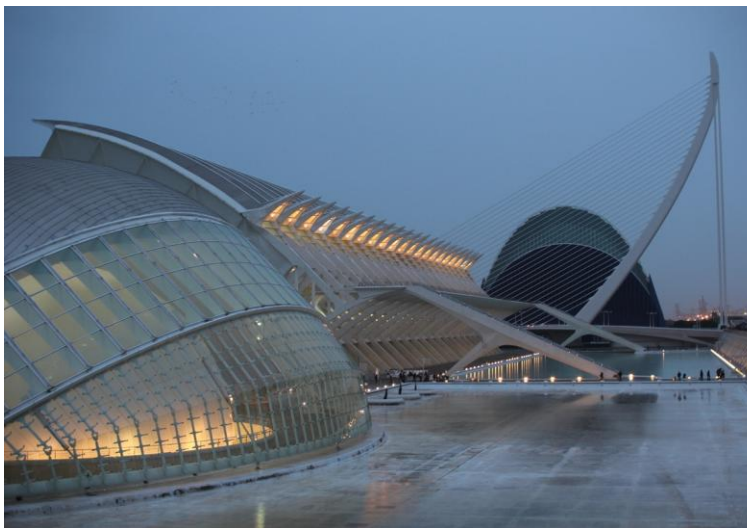
New Opportunities

God has connected us recently with some other churches and Christians working in the city of Valencia. This has been a great encouragement to us and a source of new networks and opportunities. Last Saturday we joined a group of about 100 Christians from the region for a business conference. Looking at God inspired ways to create jobs in this time of crisis and un-employment. There were 3 business men and women from the UK speaking alongside Christians from Spain who have been running small businesses here for many years. It was very encouraging and stimulating especially talking to one of the speakers from the UK who has been running a Fair Trade jewellery design/manufacture company for the last 12 years. We learnt some much from her and can apply many things to One of a Kind.

After the Christmas break we are starting to get things moving again with a planned training programme to get quality and consistency as well as look for other women to get involved. We will have a new range of tee-shirt designs coming out and a new product idea too. Watch this space for information when everything is ready!! In the meantime orders are welcome and can be placed through our facebook page www.facebook.com/oneofakind.es or by e-mailing us at thewhitesinspain@gmail.com

Teams and Visitors

We have an exciting Spring schedule with personal visits from friends and family, pastoral visits and teams coming out including a team of 12 from Bethel Church, California. They came to visit last year and it was a very special time so we are looking forward to having them come and visit again!



Valencia City of Arts and Sciences



Surfers and stormy day Puzol Beach

Please Pray

For the new believers, that they would learn to know Jesus and understand His plan for their lives in a way free from religion. That they would have a hunger for His word and a heart to support each other.

For One of a Kind that it would continue to grow and provide employment for many women in the area.

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

Love Chris, Liz, Leo & Samuel