

CMS Link Letter no. 3 March 2012

## Crònica Catalana

**Dear praying friends,**

In January a friend reminded me that I had been living and working in Sabadell for 13 years – which is at least three times as long as I have worked anywhere else. It doesn't seem possible! This link letter has been on the table since then, but keeps being overtaken by incoming emails, chemo treatments and the mere fact that everything seems to take me twice as long these days. However, today's task is to get this long-overdue *Crònica* written, so please forgive me its brevity.

Many of you have been receiving treatment updates so I won't go into much detail here. (I'll happily send you the updates also if you ask me to). Suffice it to say that I am on a fourth cocktail of chemotherapy, and after a year of the blood marker rising slowly – or not so slowly – it has finally begun to come down once more. The downside is that this treatment is more aggressive in its side effects and the second intravenous dose

**The cooking of Calçots, a catalan speciality  
February lunch**



**Sue Woodcock**  
CMS mission partner  
**Spain**

of each round leaves me extremely tired and lethargic for four or five days. But it is putting a break on the rate of growth of the tumour, and I am still doing several hours work most days, regularly presiding at Holy Communion, leading Bible Studies and generally prompting and guiding from behind the scenes. So there is much to praise God for – and anyway I could never sit at home merely twiddling my thumbs!

Dani (Reader), Joan (Treasurer), Lidia, Rafael (Synod delegate), Lorena and Carolina are the members of the church council. The last two have the same surname and both teach Sunday school also, but Lorena is from Argentina and Carolina from Chile. They all continue to rise well to the challenge of leading the church. The financial and employment situation of church families is a cause of concern – for their personal needs, as well as because it affects the giving. Most of our budget goes on basic fixed bills, so please pray for an increase of faith in the Lord's ability to provide for His children and for all our ministry needs.

Dani and Antoni are continuing to study theology through a distance learning programme that up until now has been very good, although increasingly the seminary is causing them unsatisfactory delays as study programmes are

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being adjusted to fit in with European requirements. Please pray for right way forward for them.

We have finally managed to present all the documentation relating to the "Law of Places of Worship" and are now waiting for the reply from the city council. It seems that our file of papers has been shown to other pastors as a model to follow, which is pleasing, but a number of city councils are still making life difficult for evangelical churches, and the Evangelical Council of Catalunya continues in conversations with the Catalan government to find solutions. Also, 40 years after the construction of the church building, we are now able to regularise the vehicular entrance – at a price of course! So that will probably have to wait until May.

At the end of this month we are organising a 24/7 prayer day, and this will be followed by a weekend of prayer in the early summer. The young adults are organising these and I am delighted with their enthusiasm and creativity. Our objective as a church this year is to deepen the devotional and spiritual life of the church, and these prayer days will help to further that goal. The two prayer meetings have a fairly faithful but very small attendance; please pray that people lose their fear of praying together and begin to see the need for it.

At diocesan level, there are a number of new places of worship in different cities around Spain, mostly very small and with young and unexperienced leaders. The Australian mission partner responsible for the church in Barcelona is on home assignment for six months, leaving Ralph and his wife Kylie in charge. Give thanks for some new contacts who are very interested in the gospel. The small church in Reus is still struggling to find its feet – I meet with Rafa, the minister, from time to time when he can make it to Sabadell, but have not been able to visit the church there since my illness. Please pray for the gospel to really take root in people's lives, for inspiration for new leaders, and for wisdom for Bishop Carlos in all his decisions.

Once again thank you to you all for standing alongside me in prayer. Times and seasons are all in the Lord's hands



**Top: A child in front of the model of the tabernacle that we used in an all-age service recently**

**Bottom: Our monthly lunch in January was followed by a workshop of quick cookery for all the family**

and although I sometimes find myself very worried about what will happen to the church in the future, I just have to keep coming back to the fact that everything is under the Lord's control. Hallelujah!

With love in the Lord Jesus

*Sue*

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