

Update from Sue Woodcock in Sabadell, Spain

Dear Friends

May was so busy, we are into June before I even remembered my resolution to send a monthly update. Anyway, here goes.

Firstly, May has been the wettest for 37 years, and in some parts of Spain the wettest since the end of the XIX century! Catalunya's reservoirs rose from 21% to 51%, and it is still raining. It has mostly been steady rain, rather than torrential, and so less damaging to crops etc. EXPO Zaragoza, due to open next week, is probably going to have to resort to a plan B for the opening ceremony as the site for plan A is at the moment under water due to the rise of levels in the River Ebro. The theme of the expo is precisely water, so all a bit ironic! But we are very grateful to the Lord for rain!

The rain also washed out two work days in the garden so the patio is not yet planted out, although friends from St. George's came anyway to the service and lunch on 25th May. As the ground dries out, Pablo, our gardener, will organise occasional small teams to do the work that remains.

The women's retreat in Zaragoza went very well - one of the best we have had in the time I have been here. Women came from Reus, Sabadell, Madrid, Móstoles, Bilbao, El Perelló, and 8 made the long journey from Seville.

The supper of the Antcis Joves went very well, with three people I'd never met before, one of whom is asking the important questions about God and the meaning of life. He says he wants to come to church, so please pray for him: Alvaro.

Pray for Jordi and Maria Josefa, new parents of Iker who is to be baptised in Reus on 21st May.

The end of the month is going to be very complicated: I am to take a wedding in Valencia on Friday 27th. The bishop has called a pastors' conference in Madrid for 27-28th; and the Diocesan Youth retreat has been shifted to 29 June - 1st July in Reus. Sunday 29th I am due here in Sabadell. There is going to be a lot of travelling that weekend; however I eventually organise myself, and whichever bits of the pastors' conference I take leave of absence from. Pray for wisdom!!!

Finally, an additional item in the diary is a concert of Gospel music, which is very popular here. The choir is coming from the USA, and although the Evangelical churches in Sabadell are footing most of the bill, the City council has agreed to fit it into their cultural programme called "30 Nits" and provide a main public open space and the necessary infrastructures, including all the publicity. The pastors are all delighted! The date, not to be missed, is 1st July.

May the lifegiving water of the Spirit be poured out on Spain even more generously than the Lord has given us rain this last month.

Every blessing

Sue