

Update from Sue Woodcock, 4 July 2008

Dear praying friends,

What a time these last couple of weeks! Working backwards:

Tuesday July 1st **Open air concert of Gospel music** with a New York choir. 3,500 people (approx) attended, including the mayor. The message of God's love and his presence to sustain us until he comes, resounded loud and clear. Today there was a reception for the choir and the evangelical pastors with the mayor in the City Council chamber. He told the choir that whenever they return to Spain they must come back to Sabadell. I never thought to hear Amazing Grace sung (a cappella) in the Council Chamber, followed by prayer for the mayor and the city!! It is the first time that the evangelical churches have been able to place a cultural event like this within the city's own cultural programme.

Sunday 28th - Tuesday 1st **Youth camp in Reus** with up to 30 young people from across the diocese. I joined them on the Monday and Tuesday: Monday evening was spent at Port Aventura, the Universal studios theme park. What were rather tame rides for the kids were hair-raising for me! I think they enjoyed seeing how far they could persuade me to go. After a few rides, I left attractions like the corkscrew and the Stanpida to them and waited for them to emerge at the end. The Jungle Trek the next day (an adventure course in the tree tops) was strenuous, but I enjoyed sliding down the cables. Church folk here thought I was joking, but I have the photo to prove I did it! The kids had a great time, needless to say.

27-28th June **Pastors' Conference** with Bishop Michael Jackson of Clogher speaking about what it means to be an Anglican in the 21st century, and on liturgy. What I heard was excellent, although I missed part of it because of having to officiate at a wedding in Valencia. Albert is the son of a church family, and both he and Gemma have promised to do the Alpha course in the autumn.

Sunday 22nd officiated at a **baptism in Reus**; the reception afterwards provided a very interesting conversation with Antonio, an uncle of the child's father. Pray for him as he seeks truth.

We are delighted that the book "Tokens of Trust" by Archbishop Rowan Williams is now available in Spanish, and another book by him is currently being translated. Pray for these books to be helpful to many.

I will be in UK 8-29th July, based in Oxford. Tel: 01865 761693. I should have access to email. Pray for a clear message about mission to touch hearts.

Before I travel there is a very delicate situation to present to the church here. It concerns a Bolivian girl we were supporting through her university studies who has falsified her results, and for several years has deceived us and the NGO she was linked to. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to tell people, and for the PCC as they will have to help people through it in the next week or so. Pray that hearts might not become hardened.

Please pray too for Bishop Carlos and his wife Anna who will be at the Lambeth Conferences during the next few weeks.

Looking forward to seeing or speaking to many of you,

Every blessing

Sue