

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny Mallorca! We were, naturally, sad to watch our Rafa lose at Wimbledon, but the same day rejoiced in the MotoGP victory of Jorge Lorenzo in Mugello (Italy). Advance holiday bookings for this summer suggest that we have chosen a popular place to live, but we are quite relieved that we have few landing on us for their holidays. We encounter them at the twice weekly market, where they are looking but not buying, much to the frustration of the salespeople... and to those who want to get through the crowd to the vegetable stall. In short, life on the street is transformed at this time of year by the millions of visitors, but church life is, if anything, quieter. Holidaymakers are more likely to find the church in May or October than in high, sweaty summer! And a number of our church members who are fortunate enough to have a job at all, are working 24/7 serving the tourists.

Since we last wrote I can report that my 'atypical facial pain' has subsided somewhat, but still makes undesired reappearances due to altitude or stress. We had a wonderful week's holiday in May, travelling overland to the Italian lakes with my parents (who flew to join us in Geneva). Driving over the Simplon pass the pain cut in at 1800 metres. Just as well the pass is at 2005m and, despite roadworks on an avalanche shelter, we were able to get back below the pain threshold soon enough. All very fascinating! Mind you the windy single-track road - with tunnels including blind curves- made for some stressful driving, while my passengers delighted at the wonderful spring scenery. The week on the lakes was wonderful, with visits to gardens and fancy houses of the past - and sunny almost the whole time.



In Italy

The rest of May was spent on the peninsula, attending two conferences related to Hilde's pro-life project. These were held in Barcelona and Madrid and gathered theologians, pastors, psychologists and counsellors at the first, medical personnel, scientists, lawyers and others interested in 'Bio-ethics' at the second. We were able to speak with many people of the need to set up an evangelical ministry in Spain and gave away a pile of books courtesy of George Verwer. Hilde presented the ministry on the last evening in Madrid. Two months on, we are, nevertheless, rather frustrated by the immediate situation. The local treasurer of the organisation which offers to host the ministry had a baby and together with a bad pregnancy has now been effectively out of action for several months - just surfacing as we go to press. This has not helped progress on the second leg of the project, translation. Esther Barrett is now a professional translator, when she can get it, working with the international organisations in Geneva and is also working for us. But the finance has been held up. She may soon be renaming herself Garret!

Meanwhile, Hilde is not one to take things lying down (i.e. on the beach)... She has been invited to join the board of the non-confessional 'Asociación Baleares Vida', (i.e Balearics Life) which in the



Demonstration at the City Hall, Palma

past 6 months helped 24 girls to decide against the abortion which they were considering, almost one a week. Sadly, this is nothing to the 10 daily who abort, mostly in the clinics in Palma. Over the summer, she is also helping out by manning the office one morning a week and we will collect from the 'food bank'

for the weekly food distribution to needy mums twice. It will all provide useful experience in the workings of such an activity.

Meanwhile, back in the office, Chris continues to attempt to keep his webs up to date. This is always quite a challenge, as there are now hundreds of pages, mostly with static information, but a few need regular updating. As I write, the Evangelists' Conference site still has a Christmas greeting as its latest 'blog' entry. Our board members are meant to write something regularly! The new OACI.org email system is now settled, despite a couple of early hitches with accounts. However, while much time is spent in the office, we are also able to minister locally. Every week we have either an English speaking or Spanish speaking home group and Chris is in theory in charge of the first and default back-up for the second, although each meeting is led by a different member of the group. With English speaking group members from all over the world, there are constantly pastoral issues to deal with, although we are glad we are not ultimately responsible for these! He also preaches and leads meetings occasionally in the church-plant in Arenal, plus interpreting at the mother church in Palma. A monthly open air in the Palma city centre was affected by the camp-out during May and June of the 'Indignants', mostly young unemployed people who have lost hope of finding work. Their outburst nationally on 15th May, in the middle of the local election campaign, caused a great stir. As time has passed, it has proven hard to keep up the initial impetus, but the movement is beginning to look like the start of a new left wing party which will consider the trades unions as much part of the bourgeois opposition as big business. In Madrid, our friends at the Red Box ministry took a couple of weeks off, but when they restarted were attacked by demonstrators waving banners reading 'freedom of speech'! They did not stop. The following day a young lady was so convicted by the message that she could not wait for an invitation to turn to Christ. Watch all about it here!
(<http://www.youtube.com/user/bockspain>)



From the Spanish Wikipedia page



The Indignants' 'Camp' in Zaragoza -
from my mobile

Mid-August we leave on another trip. We will be almost two weeks in Germany and the same again in England. We look forward to seeing many of you, for example in Bristol, 7th to 11th September.

Looking forward to the end of the year, we are excited about the My Hope TV campaign, which is expected to take place just before Christmas. Coordinated by Decision, the local representatives of Billy Graham, the campaign is buying prime air time on a major broadcaster - 30 minutes on each of three evenings. Local home groups and individual believers are praying for friends in 'Operation Matthew' (like Operation Andrew), who they will be inviting in the autumn to view the programmes together. In Mallorca it is all a bit behind schedule and was only presented to leaders while we were away during May, so I suspect it will not be until October when we really get going. Meanwhile, our pastor is also wanting to run some open air evangelism workshops, to get some new ideas and methods out onto the street. For a church which has been extremely conservative in its traditional method of outreach, this is great news. We look forward to being involved!

We thank you once again for your fellowship in the Gospel, support and encouragement.

Many blessings,

Chris & Hilde

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www.oaci.org , www.prayforspain.com , www.confevan.org