

News from Marcie Huson in Garstang, England - February 2009

Sorry that I didn't send out a newsletter in January – read on to find out why...

Interesting month

In January, Rob Whittaker, principle of Capernwray Bible School, was taking our morning service. He asked, "When was the *last* time you did something for the *first* time?" I watched a young husband squeeze his wife's shoulders as they looked at their first child, born a few days earlier. My most recent "first" was not nearly so exciting or life changing, but it did involve spending time in a British hospital!



On Jan. 7 I was going to pray with a friend, when I slipped on ice and landed on my elbow. After the initial shock, I didn't think much of it – even went out for lunch with some friends. By evening, however, my arm was so swollen that I rung up a nurse in our church. Kath took one look at my arm and said, "You're going in!" We drove to Lancaster Royal Infirmary, got some x-rays and were both quite shocked when the doctor immediately admitted me to the orthopedic ward. I spent the next five days in hospital – getting to know the ten other ladies in my room, being looked after by the wonderful nursing staff, and having an operation to repair the damage to my elbow.

It's a wonderfully humbling experience to be suddenly one-armed. You can't drive, lift much of anything, or wash your own hair. I'm so thankful for the people at our church – who have invited me round for meals, cleaned my house, washed my hair, prayed and generally taken wonderful care of me in these weeks following the op. The surgeon is pleased with the results so far and I've begun physical therapy ("physio"). I'm able to drive around town a little, can now wash my own hair in the shower and am getting some general use of my arm back (although still no lifting until March).

Last Sunday night I was preaching at our church in Lytham. The pulpit Bible was opened to a passage in James entitled, "Patience in Suffering." I'd much rather it had said, "Instant Healing!" ☺ But I realize this is nothing compared to what many people go through on a daily basis. Thank you for your prayers in this process of recovery. *Pictured: With Dean Wiebe and my broken elbow at the Vatican Museum.*

Travels



On that first night in hospital, I asked the doctor, “Can I still go to Italy?” ☺ My dearest friend, Gayle Crabtree, and her family have been living in Naples, Italy for the last few months. I’d planned to visit them there at the end of January. The doctor gave his okay and British Airways’ staff was ‘brilliant’ in helping me get thru security quicker, finding a seat where no one would bump my arm, etc.

It was wonderful to relax with Gayle and Greg and their children in Pozzuoli (biblical Puteoli Acts 28:13). *Pictured: You see the gorgeous view from their windows, and my dear friend Gayle.* Dean and Bonita Wiebe (Gayle’s parents) came back with me for ten great and cold days in Garstang. Gayle, Greg and the boys will visit in March.

Teaching

Several scheduled events had to put on hold or given to someone else for the two weeks I was incapacitated. It’s been fun to see that those who substituted did every bit as good or better a job than I would have! (Bob Caunce spoke about Bulgaria to the teens, Pastor Simon taught on prayer for the adults, a man preached in Lancaster FMC for me, etc. etc.) God is good.

We were finally able to start the Thursday night series on “Life’s Big Questions” near the end of January. Each week, we’ve been looking at a different question: Who are we? What are we doing here? What’s gone wrong? Where do we go from here? After cancelling or substituting for two weeks, I was thrilled to see about 50 people turn out when we finally started. Pray for the remaining two weeks of the course – that people will grab hold of these biblical truths and allow them to affect their daily lives. It’s been wonderful for me to get to teach in this kind of setting again.

At the end of this month, I’ll be teaching a group of ministerial candidates in Madrid, Spain, as they work thru a course on Free Methodist History and Polity. I get to teach the theology section. Some people may think “oh, yuck,” but I love it – cause theology doesn’t have to be dry and boring – it’s how we think about God and life and the world we live in. Very practical and exciting stuff.

Coming Soon:

Feb. 12 & 19: Week’s 3 & 4 of “Life’s Big Questions” a basic theology course at Garstang (UK) FMC.

Feb. 15: preach at Garstang (UK) FMC in am

Feb. 17: physical therapy for my arm (a weekly event)

Feb. 20-26: focused study on PhD (at the college in Manchester)

Feb. 27-Mar. 2: Madrid, Spain to teach History and Polity Course.

Mar. 12-15: Murcia, Spain to teach at a church in the process of affiliation.

Mar. 16-20: Hungary – for European Leadership Team meetings

Mar. 22-29: Team from Campus Christian Fellowship (Bellingham, WA) in Garstang (UK)

Thank you for your prayers for each of these “events” and for the on going work on the continent of Europe and here in England. And thank you for your faithful support that helps make this possible!

In Him,
Marcie

