

News from Marcie Huson in Garstang, England - March 2009

After a long winter in Europe, signs of spring are trickling in...new born lambs are in the fields, daffodils line the road ways, and we are fast approaching the celebration of Easter! Thanks so much for your prayers, support and encouragement. Here's an update on what's been going on this past month...

Travels



Since I wrote last, I've made three trips to our work on the continent. Heidi Chase, a young woman from our Carnforth (UK) church met me in Madrid, Spain, as I taught a Free Methodist History and Polity course for folks training to be pastors. Vito and Jose (Canary Islands), Ralph (Murcia), Juan and Carlos (Madrid) asked great questions as we looked at key theological points – such as women in ministry (a stretch for some of these delightful Spanish men! ☺). As always, missionaries Josh and Susy Fajardo took great care of us. Heidi and I got in a little sightseeing while there – including a visit to the birth place of Cervantes (*Don Quixote's* author). *Pictured: Sancho Panza, Heidi, me, and Don Quixote.*



Two weeks later, I was off to Spain again – this time to Murcia, on the Southern Coast. It was gorgeous, balmy spring weather. I had the joy of teaching a session on the Free Methodist Family for a small church of mostly British ex-patriots that is in the process of affiliating. One day we ate at a Chinese restaurant and in the course of the meal I never saw a Spanish person- customer or staff. Asking about this, I was told “Oh, no – you won't see any Spanish people around here!!” Inexpensive housing, gorgeous weather and a strong British pound led to small British colonies developing across the southern coast of Spain. The recent shift in the exchange rates, as well as the general economic downturn, have left many people in these areas struggling. Pray for Ralph and Margaret Locke as they reach out to this community. *Pictured: Ralph (standing) and Margaret (front left), with some of the church family.*

I touched down in Manchester (didn't even come home – just stayed in a hotel at the airport that night) and went immediately on to Budapest, Hungary, for our European Leadership Meeting. It was great, as always, to catch up with our leaders from across the continent, as well as getting to visit with Hungarian friends. One exciting story was of a 30-something Hungarian man who has

decided to get serious about his relationship with God. After trying to live in-between for many years, he has committed his whole life and is already seeing real change. Another exciting thing was two days of snow – really, isn't it supposed to be spring already????

In between those trips, I had a chance to catch up with a group from Anchorage FMC as they looked at church history and urban ministries in London.

Guests



I arrived back home with delight, as my very best friend and her family, Greg and Gayle Crabtree, were staying with me for a few days. It was so fun to see how her boys are growing up, to get some time walking in the Lakes, to cuddle a couple new born lambs at a friend's farm, and to introduce them to my church and "peeps"! *Pictured: Gayle and her boys at the airport.*



We were also hosting a team of university students from Campus Christian Fellowship of Western Washington University (my alma mater). This group of eight worked hard to raise funds, and took their spring break to come and invest in the lives of children, youth and adults in the Garstang area. They did dramas and testimonies in school assemblies, worked on the

streets on Friday night, handed out flyers door to door, and helped with a family fun day at a local Scout Hut, as well as helping with the daily activities at the church. They were a real blessing to us! Please pray that contacts made during the week will be deepened and real fruit will come from their visit.

Pictured: part of the American team (above), Family Fun Day (below).

Coming Soon:



April 5: Preaching at Cattrall (UK) evening outreach service

April 8: Young Adults' Fellowship meeting at Garstang. (This is a new group – please pray that it will bond well and reach out to other young adults in the community.)

April 9-10: Easter Celebration at Garstang (special meetings for several area churches).

April 12: Easter Sunday! Preaching in am at Garstang (UK).

April 19: preaching at Fulwood (UK) pm.

April 26: preaching at Garstang (UK) am.

May 8-14: Cindi and Eduardo Angelo (missionaries in Portugal) coming to UK for annual conference, mission meeting, some visiting.

We look forward to new missionaries Dick and Sheila Dickinson arriving in Belgium in **mid-April**. Please pray for their adjustment, language learning, and for the continued work of the churches in Belgium.

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones...

Thank you so much for your prayers for the healing of my elbow. The last X-ray showed that the bone is not healing as quickly as they had hoped. So I'm not supposed to lift anything 'heavier than a tea kettle' until June. I continue in physical therapy. There is some inconvenience and a little pain – please pray for me to be “good” and not do things I'm not supposed to!! ☺ And continue to pray that I'll get full use of my arm back.

This elbow adventure has also delayed my practical test for the UK driver's license. Please pray that I'll gain enough strength in my arm to be able to do the practices and take (and pass!) the final part of the licensing test soon.



May this Easter time bring many rich blessings to you and your family – as you experience the hope and joy of the resurrected Lord.

In Him,
Marcie