

Stephen ANDERSON

SPAIN

Location: Torre del Mar

Mission: Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

During November, we held our two Bible weekends on the theme of 'Faith' in 1 Peter. Attendance was patchy, but that was more or less expected, although the level of teaching and interactive way it was conveyed (giving space for personal and group reflection), was ideal for the event.

Coming away from it and reflecting on what was said, I am aware of the need to build Christian community in the Torre area. It is the means by which we show to the world around us how Jesus transforms lives. The challenge, however, in a context where individuals like the concept if it fits in with their timetable, is not easily taken on board. We have already begun, through interactive worship on a Sunday, to move from passive observation to active participation, but community is more than three hours on a Sunday.

Looking ahead, and with the above in mind, we hope to run some two-hour classes every Wednesday in December entitled, 'How to Study the Bible', but integrate it with lunch, prayer, and possibly communion as well. Maximising time together, when we have it, and allowing bridges to be built and trust developed.

The follow on from this, Lord willing, will be a weekend away at the end of January. All of this is however, tempered by the knowledge that people here are highly independent and while the concept may be appealing, getting there may not be straightforward. As the saying



goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day"... and although we have direction, everything here is "a definite maybe".

Community, when it becomes real, is important as we were reminded, and as we enter the advent season, I trust that in time, something will be born here that will reflect life and witness in a very visible way.

Prayer Points

- Pray for Sunday services as we enter Advent and New Year and the mix of expectation and opportunity.
- Pray for our midweek lunch /study time, that attendance will be consistent and the time beneficial.
- Pray that people will develop a hunger for Scripture.
- Pray that the Lord will bring to us the people we need to build community.

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