

Stephen ANDERSON

SPAIN

Location: Torre del Mar

Mission: Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and here in Torre, we have been thinking about how we could celebrate this in a way which will generate curiosity and opportunity.

So, on 11th May we will hold what might be the first of three events across the year in the form of a Catholic / Presbyterian round table discussion on the theme of "The Church". The idea is that a representative from both churches will have the opportunity to speak for 20 minutes on the question "What is the Church?" and afterwards it will be open season for questions.

The event will be held in the Lux Mundi centre here in Torre, with the idea that it will be repeated again in Fuengirola at a later date. As it will be in Spanish, it is likely to push my language skills to their limit, and then well beyond, but if I waited until I was feeling confident enough, it would never happen.

The aim of the event is to highlight the different emphasis that both traditions have, and in a way which is not offensive to anyone, present the Reformed understanding and offer people an alternative perspective. At this point, there is no way of knowing if it will generate any interest locally, or what may come from it. If successful, we hope to repeat the format later in the year looking at the themes of "Salvation" and "Election."



Alongside this I have also been exploring the opportunities to purchase some display stands, and work with another local congregation in putting together an exhibition on the Reformation, and what it means today. At this point we are still sourcing materials, and looking to find ways of using the anniversary of the Reformation to its maximum effect.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the event on 11th May, that I will be able to communicate clearly what I want to say, and respond well to any questions raised.
- Pray for an openness among the local Catholic community to explore issues of faith from a different perspective.
- Pray for the sourcing of materials and opportunities for local exhibitions on the Reformation.
- Pray for the wisdom that comes from the Spirit of God in all our endeavours to share the good news of Jesus.

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