

# International Evangelical English Church *Playa del Inglés & Puerto Rico.*

Newsletter # 017

Gran Canaria

Winter 2019

As another year draws to a close we want to thank you for your support in it's many different ways; prayerfully, financially, practically and by worshipping with us when you are here on holiday. You are a real blessing to us and our work here in Gran Canaria.

2019 has been a year of mixed emotions.

We have mourned the passing of two of our dear friends in Reg and Pepe and we continue to pray for their families. We find comfort in the knowledge that they are with their saviour.

It has also been a year of celebration, joy and encouragement.

We rejoiced as Gary, Petra, Mary, Naomi, Ron and Bill all publicly professed their faith and were baptised as believers.

During the year Gavin also had the privilege of helping 3 couples bring their marriages before the Lord and to seek His blessing upon them.



We continue to meet each Sunday at 10:00am in Playa del Inglés and at 12:30pm in Puerto Rico. We also meet in Playa del Inglés each Tuesday at 4:00pm and in Puerto Rico each Thursday at 4:00pm. We have changed the time of our Thursday meeting in Puerto Rico to an earlier time to facilitate those who may have to work in the evenings. Although the number of us who live here all year around remains quite small it has been a blessing this year to have some new folk who live locally join with us on a regular basis. As always it is



also a joy each year to welcome back our regular winter residents and holiday visitors. Over all the number of visitors this year has been encouraging especially in Puerto Rico. Visitor numbers in Playa del Inglés were lower than usual for a little while but have been getting better these last few weeks.

We are very happy that we have been able to again regularly live stream our Sunday meeting from Play del Inglés via our Facebook page. It is truly amazing how many folk watch in each week and a real encouragement to hear how it is a blessing to so many in so many different parts of the world. Just recently we got the following message from Colin & Mandy B in the UK;

*"We were blessed to attend the morning service 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at Playa des Ingles and have followed your work on Facebook including the live streams and videos. Went down with cough and cold at weekend so unable to go to church so tuned in and went to church in Gran Canaria. Great. Steve's story was tremendous and the whole thing was real blessing."*

Remember that you can view our Facebook page and watch the live stream and recordings even if you are not a regular signed in Facebook user.

In addition to our regular meetings we have had several opportunities this year to get together and share time one with another as church family. We are very thankful to our regular winter visitors Eddie & Jennifer who kindly allow use of their lovely bungalow to host the occasional barbeque, lunch or supper. This year we also got together for a bring and share picnic in the large public park, Parque del Sur, in Maspalomas which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came along.



The Lydia Ladies prayer group continues to meet once a month and is well supported. The ladies are truly finding it a blessing and encouragement as they pray together for the nation and for the church.

We had some unexpected but very welcome visitors drop in recently. We as a church have for several years had contact with Mercy Ships and in particular Steve and Lisa Schwind. The Africa Mercy is currently working in Senegal on the west coast of Africa. Steve needed some emergency medical treatment that could not be carried out in Senegal so was flown to Gran Canaria to receive it here. He underwent keyhole surgery to have his gallbladder removed and has since made a full and speedy recovery. Under doctors' orders Steve was not allowed to return to Senegal until three weeks after his operation so during that time Steve was able to share with the church about the work of Mercy Ships and also share his own and very powerful testimony. We look forward to welcoming back Steve and Lisa and others from Mercy Ships next year.



As 2019 draws to a close we are looking forward to singing Christmas carols and sharing the true message of Christmas again this December in some of the local bars and cafés. People are quite open to listen and sing along; often it sparks memories of school and Sunday school days and leads to many interesting conversations. It is a great opportunity to bring God's word into homes as we give a little gift to everyone who comes along. This year as we think about how the angels passed on messages from the Lord to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds about Jesus, we will be giving out angels with the verse "...and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23).

Please remember us in your prayers. The dates are:

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** December @ 7:30pm - Templo Ecumenico, Playa del Ingles
- Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** December @ 7:30pm - Bar Buenavista Café, San Agustin
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** December @ 7:30pm - Scruffy Murphy's, Puerto Rico
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>** December @ 7:30pm - Public Square, Puerto Rico Shopping Centre
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** December @ 7:30pm - The Old Brogue, Playa del Cura

We wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas as you celebrate the 'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6). Perhaps we will see you in Gran Canaria again in 2020!

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