

Al and Helga Bonikowsky Missionaries to Spain

June 6, 2004

Dear Friends,

Just a brief note after getting home from services this Sunday evening. We had a good group of folks in the morning service. Please pray especially for a lady called Piedad. Iñaki, one of her sons, accepted the Lord in my office perhaps 20 years ago. He married a good christian lady and they are members of the first church in Irun. Piedad lives not too far from our new church in Rentería and has been wanting to begin to attend services and was at a recent ladies meeting. She used to be very antagonistic to us but it seems the Lord is working in her heart. At the previous ladies meeting there were also 6 other unsaved ladies, a total of 7, including a first time visit by a neighbour lady who lives above us in the apartment complex.

This evening I believe we were 47 in the service. The pastor of a sister church here in the Basque region of Spain brought some folk over from his church and he baptized his two daughters. We again had several visitors and so we pray that the Lord would use the seed planted in their hearts to bring them to himself. Mari Angeles was able to come to services again and she has a desire to attend the services more regularly. Unfortunately she has had to place her parents, Jose and Conchita, whom we have mentioned many times, in a home as she simply could not handle the responsibility anymore. This has freed her up considerably to come to the services and she seems to enjoy them very much.

On Tuesday a small group of men come from Maryland to help us with some projects at the farmhouse. Some of them have been here several times and seem to enjoy working on the picturesque old farmhouse on the mountainside. We are awaiting delivery of enough tile for the 4 bottom floors (former stables) and also perhaps enough flooring (floating) for the other floors.

We have quite a bit of plumbing and electricity work to prepare before finishing all the ceilings.

The churches in Spain are getting some unexpected help from Hispanic folks moving here from Latin and South America. A solid Argentinian Baptist family, Ramon, Patricia and their son Jorge, joined the work recently and they are awaiting the arrival of a married daughter and son-in-law at the end of this month. Another gentleman, Luis, also came recently and has been quite faithful as his work permits. He is also expecting his wife in the next couple of months. They all come from Mendoza, Argentina, on the border of Chile.

Although Spaniards turn their lives over to the Lord from time to time, they are very materialistic and leaving the state church in droves and have little if any interest in spiritual things. The new Socialist president is part of the group in the European Union that does not want to mention God in the new constitution that they are preparing. However, the Lord is working and we are encouraged. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers.

God bless,

Al & Helga