

Al and Helga Bonikowsky  
Missionaries to Spain

July 27, 2004

Dear Friends,

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19

Meant to send this last Sunday but the time slipped by.

Two Sundays ago we had an unusual baptismal service. Keti is a young married lady in our church who was saved 24 years ago at the age of 12. During her studies in a Bible School in Puerto Rico she got a summer job in the US and met and married Mike Branson. They presently own a Language Academy here in the city of Irun, Spain. They have four children, two girls and two boys. Esther is 9 and she was baptized two Sundays ago. The unusual part is that Mike's mom and dad are visiting. Mike's dad is a Baptist pastor in Iowa. Mike, father, preached the message. Bruce, the grandfather, baptized Esther, his grandchild and Janet, the grandma, played the piano! I believe Keti had invited 30 of her family and I think all came but one! Needless to say we were over 60 in the services! Very satisfying as the years go by to see the way the Lord continues to work in the lives of our Spanish people.

Things are going just a little slower on the farmhouse retreat center. We are working on slowly chipping out all the old clay mortar in the stone walls and replacing it with cement mortar. The building has 17 windows, none of them the same size, and I am having to first of all fix all the mortar joints surrounding the window openings, remove the window frames inserted into the stones (some of them over 300 years old!), and then pour a concrete sill. A Christian builder from Barcelona will make us custom windows, probably PVC, hopefully to be installed before winter. Anyway, that's the goal. Son Andy's mind is buzzing with future ideas for the farmhouse as things slowly take shape. He is presently planning something rather unusual, a special retreat for missionary kids (MKs) in Spain with their particular problems of returning to a north American culture. We have quite a few missionary kids who returned to Spain to become missionaries, Andy being one of them, and we will probably see many more in the future.

We request your prayers for an 18 year old teenager, Nagore, who has attended some services but due to a job change has not been able to come recently. She has been, and actually is, involved with the Nestafarians but she seems to have a real desire to know the Bible and has enjoyed the services when she has been able to come. Mari Angeles, Helga's friend, now comes quite regularly. Ricardo is back in the services after going through a brief struggle. His father and a brother died of alcohol problems and he lost his mother last year. Susi, mother of two girls, is coming quite faithfully and her husband, Patxi, joins her from time to time.

This weekend Helga and I travel to Huesca, on the southern side of the Pyrennes Mountains, to attend the wedding of a Spanish pastor friend.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers.

God bless,

Al & Helga.