

Al & Helga Bonikowsky

*Baptist missionaries to the Basque Region of Northern Spain
Church Planting & Basque Farmhouse Restoration Project*

Oct 16, 2004

Dear Friends,

¿Is it worth it all?

On Aug. 24 we attended the funeral of Conchi Tellechea Arocena, Basque on both sides of the family, at the “young” age of 88. I say young because she received the Lord as Saviour when she was 85! On our brief furlough in 2003 we related her story to some of you. It is rather amazing! About 40 years ago, while we were still in business in Atlanta, Georgia, Conchi’s daughter, Mari Angeles, was working in a tourist shop here on the border of France. We are talking about the days of Franco, Spain’s dictator. A gentleman came into the store and offered Mari Angeles and another girl, Pili, a Bible and encouraged them to read it. Mari Carmen took the challenge and over the years read the Bible a number of times. Pili did not show the same interest. We arrived here about 10 years later. Some years after that Conchi and her husband moved into our apartment complex. Some years passed before Helga had the opportunity of leading Conchi to the Lord. Thank the Lord that since that time, Jose, the husband, now 95, also accepted the Lord and Mari Angeles, who now attends church quite faithfully. Jose is now living in a Red Cross old folks care home. Pili, the other lady, whose parents also moved into our apartment complex a few year ago, has come to church now and then. ¿Is it worth it all? Yes, many times over, yes.

Changes

We have been working with the Roy Keiser family over 10 years, planting a new church near our capital city of San Sebastian. In recent months we have been hearing that things were not doing real well in the first church in Irun. Pedro, our Spanish pastor, let it be known that, having a full time job, the load was too much. The “change” is that instead of “finishing our course” in the new church, we have been called back to pastor the Irun church again. Roy has a good core of believers and we are trusting the Lord to continue to use our two churches here in Irun and San Sebastian, the two largest cities in our province of Gipuzkoa. There has been considerable adjustment involved and we covet your prayers for this new phase of the ministry. One of our goals will be to find the church another pastor. We also continue to work at the farmhouse 3 days a week. Helga covets your prayers for a combined ladies meeting today. God bless.

Sincerely in Christ,

Al & Helga Bonikowsky

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