

Al and Helga Bonikowsky Missionaries to Spain

January 2, 2005 update

Dear Friends,

I apologize if some of you received a note that didn't seem to be for you. I have been struggling for almost a month with the worst flu I've ever had and still haven't recovered my hearing. Hardly ever get the flu but it sure got me this time.

We have decided to combine our regular mailing list with our Email list. If you do not have Email you will get a copy of this through the regular US postal system. It will probably come more often and be simplified into an Email message. Email has its share of problems but it certainly is an amazingly quick way to share news with you. Once we have this operating all right we will again change our Email address as we are inundated with spam. Finally you have no choice but to change server. We will let you know as soon as that takes place. The new server will be the home page of the Aierdi farmhouse ministries.

Because of the long cold we are fairly late with this Email and just want to bring you up to date on latest events.

We have had another young lady saved since the last letter. Her name is Karin and is French, but understands Spanish very well. She and Belen (whom we've mentioned many times) were good friends in their youth. Belen renewed the friendship and it is wonderful to see Karin respond and grow.

Another French lady, Ana Maria, married to a Spaniard, Guillermo, have three children and the family comes quite regularly Sunday mornings.

I believe it was on the 5th of January that Ricardo came up to me after the services and asked if he and Belen could be baptized. So we had the joy of baptizing them on the 12th. They are a great addition to the church.

On the 18th we had our annual Christmas Banquet. We have a little piggy bank in which folks place the equivalent of more or less 50 cents a week which gives them 26 euros by Christmas (At the moment almost \$34 US dollars.) We always go to a nice restaurant and they thoroughly enjoy the time together. This time we joined with the Port church and were a total of about 40 adults.

On the 19th we had our Christmas program and the church was crowded. About 50 with a good number of visitors. The next Sunday, son Andy brought their children's choir and again the church was quite full.

We also had the joy of having Mark, Stephen, Kay and our newest grandchild, Eleanor, come just after Christmas and spend some time with us. Even took some family pictures. The first time the whole family has been together in quite a while. Unfortunately I was sort of subdued with the flu but it was wonderful to have them, although I didn't have much chance to spoil Eleanor. Both Mark and Stephen continue to be very busy in their home churches.

We have also taken a brief holiday from the farmhouse. When we start again we will try and finish preparations to install the five doorframes and doors, most of them double doors. The inside is very usable now and soon we have major work on the entire water system. It involves pouring a large slab for two large

water containers up near one of the springs we have on the land. From there we will run it down through the farmhouse. Then finally into a septic tank at the bottom of a steep slope below the farmhouse. Lots of work.

Helga, daughter-in-law Mimi, and Mari Ester, wife of Andy's coworker, were invited recently to speak at a ladies meeting in the Madrid area. The general theme was "Through wisdom is an house builded." Proverbs 24:3. The entire verse reads, "Through wisdom is an house builded, and by understanding it is established." The verse comes to mind as we plan the future for the farmhouse and the church, both of which need so much wisdom and understanding.

We do ask for special prayer for the next couple of months. We are involved in some major planning for the future of the work and need the Lord's wisdom. I will inform you fairly soon of the things that are developing right now. God bless.

We are planning an evangelistic campaign for the weekend of March 5th with a Spanish pastor and would appreciate your prayers for that.

Sincerely in Christ,

Al & Helga Bonikowsky