

Al and Helga Bonikowsky

Missionaries to Spain

December 2005

Dear Friends,

Job complained "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6). How quickly the time goes by! One of these days time will no longer be a factor in our lives when we are with the Lord. May we be faithful to him as that day comes closer with each passing day. We hear so many things that are developing here in Europe as they, with faltering steps, appear to be setting up the ground work for the Antichrist's kingdom. Over all it seems as if the hearts of people get harder every day to the message of the Gospel. Far more people are saved amongst the immigrant groups who are looking for paradise in Europe. Many of them find a much greater paradise in the Lord!

We had very good services, with good attendance, in our meetings with pastor Martin Valvarcel that we asked you to pray about in our last update. Several of our good contacts attended and it was another step towards a decision time for them. Decisions do come but after a good bit of seeding and watering has been done in the heart.

Several weeks ago we had a surprise visit with a wonderful pastor from Costa Rica, Walter Lamberth. That name does not sound very Spanish, but he surely is. We had the joy of having him preach for us Sunday morning and Sunday evening on the 30th of October. We had some South American immigrants in the church and one, Mari Sol, made a public profession of faith in Christ. Please pray for her. She, as many of them, has a lot of problems, and it is not always easy to adjust into the Spanish "european" culture.

At the moment we have a gentleman from Peru attending. Jose Antonio "appears" to be saved. Your's truly has a difficult time understanding his particular version of Spanish. Some of our people have the same problem so that makes me feel a little better! Gladis, a lady from Ecuador, who, with daughter Mari Jose, has been in our church for some time, just welcomed two more of her daughters, Amilia and Daniela, to Spain. Both also attend church. Gladis is a widow.

Karen, the French lady who accepted the Lord some time ago, has made the transition into a French independent Baptist Church not too far from us in France. She has grown rapidly in the Lord and wants to see her husband, Vicente, and the rest of her family, come to the Lord. He speaks no spanish. Do continue to pray for her.

The first week of December a couple of electricians and a drywall man will descend on us to do some major work on the farmhouse. Roy and I are very busy putting up the metal studs for the rooms that get either sheetrock or OSB walls so that the electrical lines can be run. Interesting trying to lay out the lines for a large generator that produces three phase electricity. I am glad there are other people who know more about that than I do.

Helga keeps meeting on a regular basis with some of our newer christian ladies and they are working with several contacts who are showing interest in the things of the Lord. You could pray particularly for Begoña and Yolanda.

This week Andy and family will return to Spain from their furlough and give us back our grandkids! Of course they are growing up so quickly! The oldest, David, has also felt the call to the ministry and will continue our rich heritage. If you have forgotten, with Andy and Mimi we have David, Danny, Mark and Rachel. With Stephen and Kay we have Eleanor. It is such a blessing for us to know that every day that their church doors are open, they are in the Lord's house, unless they can't for some reason or other. As Job of old, we ask the Lord to put a "hedge" around their lives.

In closing, we take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and God's richest blessings in the New Year. As always, may we all be prepared for the wonderful return of our Saviour, should 2005 be the year. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

Al & Helga