

Al and Helga Bonikowsky Missionaries to Spain

April 17, 2006

Dear Friends,

"He (Andrew) findeth his own brother Simon (Peter), and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus..." (John 1:41,42).

Yesterday, Easter Sunday, was a special time of blessing in the Iglesia Bautista Biblica of Irun, Spain. We started the day off with a good number of our believers meeting up on a mountaintop overlooking our city and watching a beautiful sunrise come up over the mountains. Absolutely breathtaking! We sang a few of the traditional songs celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and had a brief devotional. After coming "down off the mountain," many of us met at a Spanish "churrería", for a cup of hot chocolate in which you dunk a "churro," which according to the dictionary is something like a "fritter", or "cruller." Actually, it is something very Spanish! Although quite a few of our people had driven off to visit friends and family during the Easter season, the church was pretty full for both morning and evening services. The best part of the day came when Aurora asked to give a public testimony of having accepted the Lord as Saviour that afternoon! The pattern was given to us by Andrew. Although this was not a brother bringing a brother to Jesus, it was a daughter, Belen, bringing her mother to Jesus! We mentioned her in our last prayer letter.

At the end of February we enjoyed a brief change of activities and participated in the missionary conference of a sister Baptist church in the city of Móstoles, near Madrid, Spain's capital. On Saturday morning we also spoke at a combined men's meeting, sharing the pulpit with a Spanish pastor. Seems like the attendance was around 60 men.

March was busy helping prepare a number of things at the Aierdi farmhouse for Andy's second Missionary Teen Retreat with a good turnout of missionary young people from Spain and France. By the way, Andy is now producing what he plans to be a seasonal production called "The Aierdi Advance," which will keep all who ask for it up to date on activities at the Retreat Center. You can write and ask for your copy at advance@aierdi.org

We ended March with the privilege of baptizing Joaquina, another lady who gave her heart and life to Christ in April. Not surprisingly, she immediately had a desire to get rid of smoking! I believe we had 7 of her friends and family for the baptism and again had the opportunity to preach the wonderful news of salvation in Jesus Christ to many who had never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel. Joaquina is a friend of Aurora, the lady who was saved Easter Sunday!

Another lady has asked to be baptized and Aurora will probably ask to be baptized shortly. We have numerous new faces in the services and some we believe are close to salvation. After so many years in our Basque corner of the world, the Lord is honoring his word and bringing a number of Spanish people to himself. In the last month and a half attendance has continued to grow and we have had an average of 64 different people attending one of our three weekly services. When things go too well we begin to look at those who visit to see if some wolves might be coming in! The devil does not like what is happening and will do whatever is necessary in order to try and stop it. May the Lord help us to be faithful to Him until our work is done.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support for the ministry that the Lord has given us in this needy country. The shadow of Antichrist continues to spread across the former bounds of the Roman Empire and in some countries the much vaunted freedom of religion is beginning to unravel. Islam continues to make great inroads into the very countries that produced the Reformation and basically returned the Scriptures back to God's people in their own language. One of these days we will hear the sound we all want to hear, the sound of the trumpet, and Jesus will return to take us home! "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20.

Sincerely in Christ,

Al & Helga Bonikowsky