

# The Andy Bonikowskys

June 2011

*Preaching the Gospel of Christ among the Basques of Spain*

## ⇨LOOKING BACK

•Several mission teams and individuals have visited us in the past three months. The **Clutes** and **Stroups** came in March and worked in the **Aierdi** dining room and ministered to our believers through music and preaching on the weekend. The **Goodwins** arrived in April and installed a beautiful water wheel at **Aierdi**. At the end of May, **Pastor Greg Wright** came from **Westside BC**, in St. George, UT, with several members of his church. They were involved in various church ministries and poured a concrete slab for the water tank above the farmhouse. It is one of our privileges and pleasures to give friends from the United States a firsthand view of the mission field.

•Last week one of our church couples, **Jose & Rosa Acosta**, came over to ask an unusual favor. **Rosa's** stepmother, back in **Ecuador**, is facing a serious surgery and

had recently shown an openness to spiritual things.

They asked me to carefully explain salvation to her, and over the phone, **Lucila** repented and trusted in **Christ** with an eager heart. What a rare privilege to lead someone to the Lord who was 5,000 miles away!

•On June 11th, missionary **Marvin Robertson**, from central Spain, taught in our 23rd intensive Bible institute. His theme was **GALATIANS: Living Free in Christ**. There were 76 adult believers in attendance from five different churches.

•For the first time in nearly 20 years of ministry we now have some men who are wanting to preach! **Cairo, Domingo, and José** have all begun to prepare devotional thoughts for various church activities or classes, as first steps in learning to preach the Word.

•Our co-workers, **Randy & Karen Wilkins**, are actively looking for a building to rent in **Tolosa**. Our Goierri congregation is praying with them and will be helping with financial support as the Bible study and church plant get started. The city of 40,000+ has a history going back seven centuries, with little evidence of ever having a Gospel witness.

## LOOKING FORWARD ⇨

•There are four young ladies here as interns this summer. One of them, **Lana Tagli**, from our home church, is preparing a drama production on the **Life of Joseph** which we will present on July 3rd, along with a Gospel message. We expect to have more people than we can handle in our small rented facilities, so we asked the **Beasain** sports complex for permission to use their meeting hall. They granted it free of charge again!

•We continue to look for a larger building for the **Beasain** church. For 15 years the small location was plenty big enough, but the Lord has increased the flock in recent years and we are urgently in need of a bigger building. Thank you for praying for this important need.

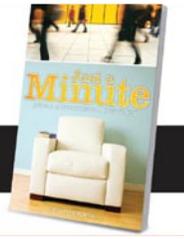
•On July 13th a youth mission team from **Berean BC**, in **Macon, GA**, is arriving. For a week, they will join our ministries as we also try to give them a good opportunity to see the mission field close up.

Andy & Mimi Bonikowsky

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW THE MINISTRY THROUGH PICTURES AND VIDEOS PLEASE ASK TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL REPORTS!**



*(1) And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; . . . (2) And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved. . . . (3) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: (Genesis 35:11; 43:14; 49:25)*



These three “Almighty” references stand out as verbal mileposts along the rocky road that made up Jacob’s life. The first was Jehovah’s revelation of His own omnipotence, followed by a promise. The second was spoken by Jacob many years later. It was the fatalistic cry of a man who remembered what to believe about God, but had never really brought himself to bow to it in humble submission. At this moment, after having made such a mess of his life, he had little hope of experiencing God’s joy ever again.

But what about the third verse?!

It was the shout of changed man.

There was hope in those words. There was excitement! There was confidence.

Why the huge change? Remember, this sneaky twin was a rascal of the first order and a terror to many of those unlucky enough to have faced him in business. He swindled his brother, he lied to his father, he cheated his uncle, and he humiliated his children. Because of his history of raunchy deals, Jacob headed into his later years with a soul weighed down by sour memories. Add to this the continual mourning of a favorite son he thought was dead and you have a textbook example of misery. The wild oats had sprouted and years of reaping the mature grains of his deceit had left him tired and cynical.

So again, what happened in the last seventeen years of his life? What erased the pessimism and bitterness that had built up in the previous one hundred and thirty years?

They were swallowed up in the grace of the God who proved to him the reality of His all powerful wisdom. Against all odds, he had preserved Jacob’s favorite son Joseph in Egypt. Then, through an almost unbelievable orchestration of events, He arranged for the two to embrace again.

Nearly two centuries before, Jehovah had presented Himself to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham as the Almighty God. The Scriptural record then confirms that his father Isaac passed on to him this wonderful knowledge and charged him to believe it.

But Rachel’s darling son had a very high opinion of his own savvy. He was not very interested in knowing God or learning about His almighty character. Oh, he finally passed the test alright, but he went about it the long, hard way. In the process he made a first class wreck of his life. Fortunately, the One who promised to bless him does not forget His promises . . .

even if His children blow it.

Have we learned the lesson? If so, no human force or circumstance will shake our peace for very long. King David reminds us in Psalm ninety-one that we have a refuge and a fortress in the shadow of the Almighty. And then, at the closing of the Book of the Revelation, we are told to expect a city that has no need for temple, or sun, or light . . .

For God Almighty dwells there.

*Dear Father, I am too inclined to forget Your Almighty nature, or ignore its implications. In thoughts and attitudes and actions I often reveal how shallow my faith really is. Forgive me, Lord. Amen.*

Andy

This devotional was recently sent out by email as JAM #123. If it was a blessing to you, 96 of these Scriptural devotionals were recently published in a book which you can purchase at [AMAZON.COM](https://www.amazon.com) by searching for “Just a Minute Bonikowsky”.