



# The Hamley Herald



November 2008

## Doorbell Ministry

Some churches have successful bus ministries in which the church sends a bus around to surrounding neighborhoods to gather both young and old to join them for Sunday service. This is impractical for us in many, many ways. First, we don't have a bus. And even if we had one, at \$6.50 a gallon for diesel (yes, it's come down by \$2.50 a gallon in the past six weeks), we couldn't afford to go very far! Then, there is the issue of trust, coupled with the perception that any church that isn't Catholic is a cult. It just isn't practical.

However, what is bearing fruit these days is a little thing we like to call our "doorbell ministry." A half-hour before Sunday school, Carrie goes around the neighborhood, ringing the doorbells of children we know whose parents work on Sunday morning and who are too young or undisciplined to set an alarm clock. The result has been positive, almost to a fault, and we now have trouble squeezing everyone in a classroom that comfortably seats only nine. But it is a terrific problem to have! And now that the homework club has been running for a couple of weeks, interest among those children is increasing and some have begun to attend Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday children's activities. Praise the Lord!

## Breaking Down Barriers—Building Up Walls

You've all heard the thesis of the 80's classic *Field of Dreams*: "Build it and they will come." Every once in a while the same is true for a church, as we feel is the case with our emerging youth group. Our first outing was met with great success—eleven in attendance! The following week, there was an outing to the mountains of Segovia, which was not as well-attended—understandably so, with the arrival of the year's first cold snap.



Cat napping in the mountains during a recent youth outing

Since the Sunday school class has been taken over by Josh Fajardo (fellow FM missionary and senior pastor of the Madrid church), attendance has slowly been increasing, and once again, the lack of space has become an issue. To this end, we have decided to build a wall to section off an area that is currently used for coffee

time and storage. We hope to have the classroom finished by the end of the month. We are also looking to add a ping-pong table and possibly a video game console so the youth can engage in activities that do not involve alcohol, discotheques, and mini-skirts on Saturday nights! Please remember this ministry in prayer. We recognize the need to break down barriers and false perceptions of the evangelical church, especially among the youth of the greater Madrid area.

## Tesoros de Jesús

On Thursday evenings, while the adults are gathered at the church for a time of prayer and Bible study (which took place in homes until we outgrew them), we have begun a Children's Bible Club, which the children have voted to call "Tesoros de Jesús" (Jesus' Treasures). We feel this name is appropriate as it affirms their worth in the kingdom, reminds them of who they belong to, and also gives us an excuse to decorate in a Caribbean theme (minus the pirates). Eventually, we'd like to see this club develop into a type of Pioneers group (similar to a Christian Boy or Girl Scouts) in which children could learn basic life skills, make crafts, and become involved in community service as well as studying the Bible. This is a lofty vision, requiring a much larger support system than the one we currently have in place, but all things are possible, and we've got time to experiment and grow as the Spirit leads. If you know of a curriculum that might meet our needs, please pass the name along!



## The World Is a Handkerchief!

This Spanish expression, meaning "It's a small world" is proving truer every day. With the advent of Facebook, we are able to stay in contact with friends sitting behind a desk in the U.S., in a grass hut in the African savannah, and even in the mountains of Honduras.

This past weekend, we hosted Glenda Leveron, a Honduran former co-worker and friend from our days at the Escuela Bilingüe Siguatepeque. She, too, has a burden for Spain, and her passion for ministry compelled her to quit her teaching position and pursue a seminary education. That education has opened the door to a two-month internship in the south of Spain. To our delight, she had to spend a night in Madrid before proceeding to her final destination. We are excited to see her again and learn of all that God has been doing in her life in the past four years! We also wanted to give her a briefing on Spanish language and culture, as we know how

shocking some things can be for someone who has just come from Honduras where the social hierarchy is much more rigid, and the informal speaking form is only used when speaking to animals! She's going to have a hard time at first adapting to the nuances of the language, but we are glad to have the opportunity to talk about these things first so that she isn't too appalled!

### On a Personal Note

If you don't keep up with our blog, you may not have heard the news of our miscarriage. We lost a little life after only six weeks, but we miss our baby very much! We still struggle to pick up the pieces of our shattered dream of having a child to bring back and present to our families and churches this coming summer, as well as our dream of finally being able to start a family of our own. Thanks to all who called, sent cards, or even visited to try and lift our spirits during this difficult time. Carrie's body is recovering perfectly, but our spirits are still very heavy at times. As the first one did not come easily, it is hard to say when we might expect another. We are comforted by the fact that it isn't science who decides, but rather a loving God who wants the best for our lives—which we hope includes a baby for us someday soon!

### Trick or Treat? In Spain?

It never fails that the best, and sometimes the worst, of one culture is imported abroad. I suppose it is another bittersweet side-effect of globalization! Unfortunately, Spain (or at least the Madrid area) has become enamored with the idea of Halloween. Perhaps it's the children's English books filled with colorful pictures of ghosts and goblins holding bagfuls of candy; maybe it's the popular Chinese stores that have begun importing grotesque masks and costumes; or perhaps it has something to do with the largest Satanist gathering in the world on All Hallows' Eve around the monument dedicated to the devil himself. At any rate, this awful pagan holiday is beginning to eclipse All Saint's Day (Nov. 1), the Spanish version of Memorial Day in which families visit the grave sites of their departed loved ones. Some children don't even know that All Saint's Day exists. They honestly believe that they get the day off of school because Halloween is just so cool. Pray as we strive to minister to these children and educate them on the true meaning of Halloween.

### Looking Ahead to 2009

First, we have to express our gratitude for the way you have made sure that we have lacked for nothing this current year. People have been following through on their commitments, which is both a joy and a relief. Several significant one-time donations have also helped cover unexpected expenses, including a photocopier for the church and several trips between Madrid and Lisbon to straighten our visas and legal documents. We are especially excited to have heat this winter, and it looks like we'll need to turn it on this weekend! God has used you—your prayers and your finances—to bless our ministry this past year. Go Team Spain!

We are also happy to report that the dollar is stronger against the Euro than it's been in the past two years. This means that we have experienced close to a 20% "raise" in the past month, because although we are receiving the

same dollar amount, it means more Euros to spend! Yeah! And just in time for the holidays!

Unfortunately though, the reality of a growing ministry is the cost which also grows. This means that for the coming year, we are in need of an additional \$11,000 to meet our 2009 Missionary Account budget in addition to the \$17,500 we are required to raise in one-time donations for Spain country shares for 2009. If the Lord burdens you to help with either of these, please get in touch with us. *We also need 2009 commitments from our supporting churches, so if your church gives regularly to our support, please have someone pass us along that information as soon as possible.*

### Happy Thanksgiving

This year will be a memorable Thanksgiving for us, as we plan to spend it in Petrich, Bulgaria. We have been invited to spend this special holiday with Al and Diane Mellinger, who have become like family to us in the past 2+ years that we have known them. We look forward to seeing the Virtual Christmas Boxes they are putting together for poor Bulgarian children, but mostly we are excited about eating Al's wonderful cooking! We are also excited that we might have a chance to pop in and visit the Longs, another FM missionary family in nearby Greece.



### Praises

- For a growing congregation and establishing ourselves as an official society at the end of this month
- A surprise visit from Bronwen, Carrie's life-long friend and the maid-of-honor in our wedding, to encourage us during this difficult time
- That the dollar seems to be improving while the price of gas seems to be steadily decreasing

### Prayer Requests

- For wisdom as the church officially elects leaders for its many ministries
- For our continued emotional healing after experiencing a miscarriage in October
- For safety in travel and an enjoyable visit with the Mellingers in Bulgaria

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*"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

—1 Thessalonians 5:18