



# The Hamley Herald



October 2008

## Fall Extra-Curricular Activities

We recently launched the “marketing” campaign to inform the community about a homework club we’re starting. Children will be able to come to the church from 5:30–7:30 p.m. each weeknight (Mon.–Thur.) to receive help and supervision with their homework as well as receive tutoring in the areas in which they are struggling. This “Homework Club” came about as a result of last year’s English classes, in which kids started to stay afterwards for help with their homework. Again this summer, parents expressed interest in a similar program. After talking it over with the church leadership and finding several volunteers to help, we starting planning the logistics and are in the process of making it known. Families have through this weekend to register, and we officially start the program this Wed. Pray that we would have a positive response from the community and that those who committed to help out would follow through with their commitment. Also pray that this investment in the community would bear fruit for the Kingdom as we continue to build relationships with families throughout our neighborhood.

In addition to the Homework Club, Carrie will continue to teach free English classes for high school students. Pray that we have a few more join the group and that Carrie will know how to challenge them and help them improve their English while making it fun. Pray that sharing the Gospel message would be accepted as an integral part of the class as well.

## Rallying the Youth

Now that more and more teens are attending church (or are transitioning from elementary school to high school—there is no such thing as middle school here), we are finding ourselves with an increased need to get the youth involved and cohered as a group. Since no one stepped up to the challenge after several opportunities were given, Michael and Josh (pastor and team leader) decided to take on the task of rallying the youth. Our hope is to get teens involved from outside the church as well with the goal of phasing them into the church and the family of believers! Pray that God will give Michael and Josh the patience, energy, and creativity it’s going to take to see the youth group really take shape this year. The first event will take place tonight (Friday, October 10). Please keep us in your prayers.

## Mediterranean Leadership Conference

We spent the last week of September in Portugal getting paperwork sorted out and attending the Mediterranean Leadership Conference, hosted by the FMC in Charneca da Caparica (to the south of Lisbon) and their music ministry team, Shekinah. The conference’s theme was “prophetic worship,” and we attended several workshops

centered on this theme. During the evenings, we were present for concerts/recording sessions by Shekinah as they made their third live album, “Vaso Quebrado” (“Broken Vessel”). Shekinah was joined for a number of songs by Sarah Coleman Toth, who sings, plays the guitar and flute, and is the daughter of Jan and Jerry Coleman, European Area Director for FMWM. We also had the opportunity to meet and fellowship with other leaders of churches in Spain and Portugal, including Pastor Vito of the Lanzarote FMC; Cindi and Eduardo Angelo, leaders of Team Mediterranean; and Jerry Coleman.

While in Charneca, we had the privilege of staying once again with Junior and Edyane, Brazilian leaders of the churches who hope to work in developing the church in Italy in the near future. We enjoyed renewing our friendship with them and their very energetic 1½ year old, Daniel.

## Driver’s License Update

We were able to submit our preliminary paperwork for our European drivers licenses, but the office still wasn’t sure they could be processed without the “missing” (i.e., officially nonexistent) document. They told us they would take it up with the U.S. Embassy if it were a problem. For now, we have a piece of paper that only allows us to drive until our licenses are (hopefully) processed, which we have been told could take 8 months or more! Please pray that they will be processed quickly, that the paperwork will be accepted, and that we’ll receive them much faster than anticipated, as we can’t drive in the U.S. until we get the permanent licenses. (The office took our U.S. licenses as part of the application.)

## Experiencing Ramadaan First-Hand

Inspired by the many Moroccan kids who attended the summer program, and wanting to get to know their home country (next door to Spain, but a world away), we decided to head to Marrakech for a week, taking the vacation we didn’t have time for over the summer. Suffice to say, it was...different,

particularly since we were there at the height of Ramadan, a Muslim festival-month wherein adherents are not allowed to eat, drink (even water), smoke or a variety of other activities during the daylight hours. We had to be very careful about not eating or drinking in



public, which was difficult when you're downtown in one of the country's largest cities! We explored the medina, the old city, where we wandered endlessly through the marketplace, or souks. Some highlights included watching snake charmers in the Jamaa el Fna square, shopping for many-colored items of pottery, and visiting Arab-architecture tombs (see photo on page 1). We also found out, quite dramatically, that there are places even hotter than Spain, with temperatures reaching over 110°F in September!

### **El Faro (Lighthouse) Ministry**

One of our favorite ministries here is the El Faro (Lighthouse) ministry to the homeless of Madrid. Typically we go downtown with Mike (our church's evangelism coordinator), his wife Sandra, and backpacks and carts full of food and clothes for the homeless, as well as tracts for whoever will take one. After a slightly haphazard summer schedule, we're looking forward to making El Faro a regular, ideally weekly, part of our ministry. We started off with a fruitful outreach last week as, in addition to helping feed and clothe those in need, we witnessed to several people, two of whom, Alfonso and José (both homeless Spaniards), accepted Christ as Savior. Please pray for them as they begin their new lives in Christ, as well as for us as we endeavor to witness and be a blessing to others like them.

We also experienced another joy while on the streets of Madrid—many passers-by eager to accept our tracts and pamphlets. (Usually it's hard to get two people in a row to accept them.) For the first time ever, we ran out! What a joy! Our next scheduled outreach is set for today, so please keep us in your prayers!

### **Ladies Retreat to Toledo**



This past weekend, many of the ladies of our church, together with a group from the Lanzarote church and a group from Tampa, went off to Toledo (one of Spain's historical capitals, an hour south of Madrid) for a retreat, spending the weekend in a castle. (Now it's a youth hostel, but retains the castle-character.) The group was treated to sessions on the theme of reconciling the past for a blessed future, protecting ourselves and our families, and a look into the life of Ruth. Lectures were given by Maritza, a Free Methodist pastor from the Dominican Republic who joined us from the Tampa FMC. This was an excellent time of fellowship, spiritual renewal, and fun. When not in workshops, the group spent part of the time wandering around the beautiful old town of Toledo. Next year, the ladies plan to retreat in Lanzarote (Canary Islands) where our sister church is located.



**Ladies from three different FM churches outside the San Servando castle in Toledo, Spain**

### **Coming Soon: Spain in Focus 20/20**

Within the next week or so, we will start sending out to our supporters a weekly update list of prayer points for the week concerning the church in Spain. Look for it in your inbox on Thursday or Friday.

#### **Praises**

- We enjoyed safety and health on our vacation to Marrakech, Morocco
- For some good news that we recently received—an answer to much, much prayer!
- For an enjoyable visit with friends while we were in Lisbon for the Mediterranean Leadership Conference
- For Alfonso and José's decisions for Christ

#### **Prayer Requests**

- That our drivers licenses would be processed quickly
- For our church's youth group and leaders as we continue to grow and develop this ministry
- For the Homework Club and English classes, that this would be a great avenue of ministry

#### **Contact Us**

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*"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."*

—1 Peter 5:8-9