



The Hamley Herald



October 2009

Tiring Transition

We continue to visit supporting churches, reconnecting with supporters, sharing of our ministries in Spain and Portugal, and boosting our financial support for our return to the field.

Although we love seeing all of you, we are afraid that we are soon about to outstay our welcome in the U.S.! We are STILL waiting for a document to arrive from Spain so that we can officially apply for our visas. This marks four months that we have been waiting, and although we are trying not to despair, it's hard not to grow impatient as we continue to deal with bureaucracy. As it stands now, we need to change our return tickets dated Nov. 5, but we have no idea to what date we should change them. We are eager to get our Spanish residency visas, return to Spain, get settled, and get back to work, but for now, we will try to count our blessings, like being able to celebrate the holidays with our family this year.

Fall Missions Conferences

Over the past few weekends, we have had the honor of participating in missions conferences in both Van, PA, and Gearhartville (Phillipsburg), PA. Next weekend we will be returning to our home church in Wilmore, KY, to take part in their missions conference, as well.

Missions conferences are an excellent way to grow a vision for missions in your local church. It affords time for real relationships to be formed between church and missionary, and it gives the missionaries a chance to really tell about their ministries, life on the field, the struggles and obstacles they face on a daily basis, and the joys of seeing God working good in all things.

Thank you to those churches that have embraced us with your warm hospitality, encouraged us with your tears and prayers, and inspired us through your sacrificial giving. We count it an honor to be your ambassadors for Christ in Europe.



A lively crowd turned out to hear us speak at the Gearhartville missions conference kick-off (a pig roast!).

An Olympic-Sized Disappointment

By now most of you have probably heard that, after final voting by the Olympic Committee, the 2016 summer games will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Many have also heard of how disappointed Chicago is that they weren't chosen. This goes, too, for Madrid, which was also a finalist.

This was a disappointment for us, personally, because an international gathering on the scale of the Olympic Games is also a wide-open door to evangelism efforts. Instead of going to "the ends of the earth" to make the Gospel known, it's great when the ends of the earth come to you (and it's a big savings in the travel budget!). We and other Christians who work in the Madrid area feel the loss of this opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with some of the people God misses the most.

However, our loss is Rio de Janeiro's gain, and we pray for the work of the church there and trust that they will seize this opportunity God has given them. If the Brazilian Christians we know are any indication, they will meet this challenge with great enthusiasm.



Michael and Carrie as "Team Spain."

October Partnership Building Schedule

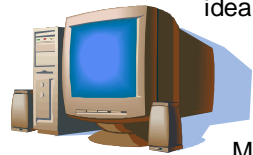
- Oct. 3-4: Gearhartville FMC Missions Conference, PA
- Oct. 11: Elkatawa FMC, KY (a.m.)
- Oct. 11: Irvine FMC, KY (p.m.)
- Oct. 12-15: Oakdale Christian School/FMC, KY
- Oct. 14: Kentucky Mountain Bible College, KY
- Oct. 17: Lexington New Direction Church Plant, KY
- Oct. 18: Wilmore FMC Missions Conference, KY (a.m.)
- Oct. 18: Lexington Calvary FMC, KY (p.m.)
- Oct. 22: Michael's Birthday ☺
- Oct. 25: Breckenridge Chapel, Louisville, KY (a.m.)
- Oct. 25: Michael's Ordination, Wilmore FMC, KY (p.m.)
- Oct. 28: Forest Chapel, Westmoreland, TN
- Oct. 29: Murfreesboro Church Plant, TN

The Giving Game

Recently, a young woman came up to us after our presentation at her church and shared with us that her family had recently fallen on hard times. Her job has been phased out, and this was her first week without a paycheck. Earlier that morning, someone she didn't know very well came up to her and gave her an envelope of money. Not wanting to take away their blessing, she accepted it, but felt like that money wasn't meant for her. She immediately looked for someone else to bless. She told us this to let us know that this money had come our way in the church's love offering. Wow! Talk about faith! No sooner had she given us her last dollars when two minutes later she was given another envelope, this time with twice the amount she put in the offering plate! She says that she is enjoying playing "The Giving Game" because even in her time of need, she is learning that it is impossible to out-give God!

Computers for Christmas

If your church, Sunday school class, or family is looking for a special project to take on for Christmas, we have an idea. Upon our return to Madrid, we will be starting an internet café as a way to provide the community with a vital service while raising money to help maintain the Madrid Ministries Center. In order to open such a café, we are going to need several new computers.



The average cost of a new computer is \$500. If your group would like to sponsor an entire computer, that is great! But smaller amounts are also much appreciated and can be combined to purchase other needed equipment, such as a professional grade photocopier.

Donations can be sent to Free Methodist World Missions with "Spain Development Fund" on the memo line, or gifts can be made directly through the fmwm.org website under EMPs (Extra Mile Projects), "Spain Development Fund."

For more information, feel free to contact us!



Praises

- The warm reception we received by several churches recently—and their passion for missions.
- Safety thus far in our travels.
- We will have many opportunities to spend time with old friends in the coming weeks as we return to our "home turf" in KY.

Prayer Requests

- For our Spanish visas, that the required document would arrive from Spain ASAP.
- That we would be able to get our financial support to acceptable levels before returning to the field.
- For Michael, as he celebrates his 34th birthday and becomes officially ordained this month.
- For planning of upcoming holiday ministries in Spain—that leaders would step up and effectively coordinate these efforts in our absence.

You Know You're a Missionary on Home Assignment When...

10. Your car is a sea of fast-food cups and wrappers.
9. It's like you're back in college: you only go home to see your parents on holidays and to do laundry.
8. You have a hard time remembering how to say certain things in English.
7. You get an almost daily tutorial in how the shower works.
6. Your main staple foods are casseroles and brownies from church potlucks.
5. You change your oil as often as some people change their socks.
4. You wake up wondering what state you're in.
3. You begin to refer to the glove compartment as your nightstand.
2. You justify frivolous purchases by converting the price into Euros and bragging about what a deal you got ("It only cost me 10 Euros!").
1. You'd be lost without your GPS—really, really lost!

Contact Us

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"Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well."

—Eccl. 11:6



Trivia fun with the folks at Gearhartville