



Dear family and friends,

It has been quite a long time since we returned from Talavera on March 14. It was an incredible experience that, like other great experiences, seemed to end too fast. We arrived in the Madrid airport on Sunday morning. There we met Eliane and Marion, two of the missionaries with OM. Eliane is a counselor that works mainly with the battered women's shelter. She is from Brazil, her second language is Spanish, so she did not really speak any English. Marion is a young woman from Germany. She speaks a little English and she was at the airport mainly to help translate for

Eliane. Once she figured I was bilingual she almost immediately passed on the job to me. We had to drive for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours to get to Talavera de la Reina. On the highway we got to see the beautiful countryside and as we got closer to Talavera we were able to see some castles. Eliane told us about the work that OM does in Talavera and a little history on the evangelical church in Spain.

OM has a vision to work in the less fruitful areas of Spain. Less than 1% of the population in all of Spain is evangelized. This is due to a number of things, mainly because the traditional ways of the Catholic Church here has such a strong influence in Spain. Another reason why there have been problems with the growth of evangelism is the lack of communication between churches. The second biggest religious population is the Muslims. Third, are Jehovah Witnesses. Fourth, are Satanic Sects. Evangelicals come in fifth. There are 8085 towns in Spain and 7000 of these towns are without churches. There are only 1600 evangelical churches in all of Spain. It takes about 5-10 years to build up churches of 15 members.

We were immediately prepared and educated on the difficulty of the tasks that lay ahead of us. The missionaries had made a schedule for us. We were first introduced to the missionaries and some of the members of the OM church that evening. On our second day we went on a prayer walk around the whole city. We prayed for the youth of Talavera (which is the most spiritually and morally dead group), for the elderly, and for the immigrants from South America and Morocco. We prayed against idolatry, for the evangelical church, for integration of the nationals and foreigners, and for evangelization now. On Tuesday, we went around the city handing out tracts. We mainly put them into mailboxes, because if we tried to hand them directly to people they would think that we were Jehovah Witnesses. That same evening we went to worship with a sister church called "Vida Nueva" (New Life). On Thursday we went to some neighboring towns to hand out more tracts. That night we met some missionaries that work with the Muslims and learned about their work. On Friday we went to a gypsy church. This was very exciting for all of us, because the gypsies were very different from the traditional Spaniards, I found them to be more like Latin Americans. They were very welcoming and sat us in the front row of their small church. They were very loud, in fact before we went some of the missionaries suggested we buy some ear plugs. They meet everyday for a church service because most of them are illiterate, so their only way of knowing the word of God is through sermons. The gospel message was very clear both in the worship and

the message. They invited the pastor of the OM church and then me to get up and pray (since I was the only Spanish speaker of the group). On Saturday we performed a few songs with puppets for the Bible Club for kids at the OM church. We also organized the service with the youth, because it was youth week. However, this turned out to be quite disappointing, because most of the youth did not show up.

When we had time back at the hotel, we shared with each other our testimonies and fellowshiped as a team. I was translating the whole week for the entire team. At first, not being able to speak the language was quite frustrating to many of the girls, but by the end of the week many had figured out ways of communicating. The OM team was greatly encouraged to see a team of 12 young women passionate for God, because the youth in Spain is very spiritually dead. Many people came up to thank us just for being there and providing a bridge with Christians in the U.S. None of the missionaries on the OM team were from the U.S. When we asked the team what more we could do to try and help, they asked us to pray for a spiritual revival in Spain and tell everyone we know to do the same. So, please pray for revival and for the missionaries that face a very difficult reality everyday, pray that they will continue being patient in the Lord and that they may persevere in spite of not seeing many results.

In Him,

Susana