



# EUROPE

June 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Please excuse the lateness of this letter but I just returned from a trip to Spain and wanted to include a report of that trip in this update. Here is a short explanation of what went on.

This was our first CONNECT trip to host to Europe. We were blessed to have a total of nine individuals, including me, participate in this effort. The group was comprised of six ladies and three men. There was an age range from older adult all the way to a teenager who is interested in serving as a missionary. Four of our group were Spanish speaking, which really helped. Often, when a group visits a foreign speaking mission field, it is a challenge to find enough interpreters. The group bonded immediately and everyone worked hard and interacted with the missionaries as well as with the Spaniards. It was great to see such a spirit of comradery and desire to serve. There was not one complaint the whole trip through!

Spain was our first choice because it is a field of Europe often overlooked or avoided. It is perceived as very stony ground. To be truthful, as all of you well know, all of Europe is stony ground, however, if the Lord of the harvest calls a missionary to a particular field, He has a purpose and will give them fruit!

This we found to be the case in Dos Hermanas (Seville) with Justin and Grace Hayes and Michael and Jen Helton. These families have only been in this location two years but are meeting regularly with 12 to 14 people and are soon to officially charter their church. The Lord is really blessing their work. This is a ministry in the "ground stages" of growth, so most of their labor involves contacting as many people as possible and getting their name out. Our group was able to assist in a city-wide canvass of Dos Hermanas in which we distributed about 11,500 pieces of literature, which amounted to approximately 40% of the city. This effort represented several weeks of work saved for the missionaries. We pray that God uses the literature we gave out to touch the hearts of some sincere seekers.

CONNECT group in Dos Hermanas with Michael & Jon Helton



We finished our trip in Parla (Madrid) with Julio and Andrea Velasquez and their church family. Brother and Mrs. Velasquez have been with BIMI since 1980 and in their current location for about seven years. Every seat was filled and the service was wonderful. Here our CONNECT group got to see the fruit of labor just like what we did in Dos Hermanas. In due season, if we faint not, God will do a work. In addition to this main, established work, Julio and Andrea are helping with a new church plant, just two years old, about an hour away on the north side of the city of Madrid.



Wednesday evening Bible Study at Dos Hermanas  
Justin & Grace Hayes  
Michael and Jen Helton

So, we were able to see an infant work and a well-established work. This helps to give an idea of what it takes to get from point "A" to point "Z." Several members of the group were very much enlightened about what is really involved in starting a new church on the mission field.

God used the CONNECT group in a very practical way to help the missionaries and God used the missionaries in a wonderful way to minister to the members of the group. Our prayer, of course, is that we would see new missionaries called to the field as a result of their "looking on the fields" that are "white already unto harvest!"

Please pray for the missionaries working in Spain and especially for those who went on this trip that God may call some of them to this needy field!

Your friends,

*Ed & Carole*

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CONNECT group with Julie & Andrea Velasquez in Parla, Spain

