

Bill & —— —— Dena Rose

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONARIES TO SPAIN AND LATINOS

What a summer it's been! Just before we left for Spain we had the funeral of

one of our Spanish church member's sister. Bill had the opportunity to preach the gospel

to close to 100 people and our Spanish church provided a meal for the family afterwards. We know of **at least one who trusted Christ as his Savior that day**. We continue to pray for the extended family of our church member that they will understand the free gift of Salvation.



Years ago a veteran missionary told us that flexibility is one of the most important things when serving in missions. We were reminded of that from the very beginning of this summer's Spain ministry. We began with our first flight being cancelled after travelling to the airport and sitting there for six hours. We had two teenage girls from our home church with us and actually added another to our group during the time we waited-a Christian girl headed to Spain for a visit. Through the generosity of one of our supporting churches the five of us were able to stay overnight in a nearby hotel and then head back to the airport again the next day. Thankfully the second travel day was much smoother and we arrived in Spain the day after we had anticipated, ready to hit the ground running and get the final preparations ready for our group of 16 arriving the next week! This year we had tried to set up our soccer tournament in a different city but in that city the police actually declared the weather to be too hot for any outdoor sporting events and we had to pivot quickly. We were thankful that the city of Cartama did grant us last minute permission to use the same pavillion we've used for the last five years and we were able to still have the tournament. We praise God for the two young men who gave their lives to Christ at the soccer tournament! We did three day Bible clubs in both the African church of Roquetas de



Mar, Almeria and the church in Cártama. We were able to practice flexibility again in Roquetas because every morning when we were arrived there was no power at the church. We were also surprised to find that more teenagers than children arrived for that VBS. There were even some adult ladies who wanted to participate! We had thought that this first VBS would be entirely in English but then some young people arrived who didn't speak English, so Dena translated the Bible lesson and Bill translated for the games. The last day we had

three Muslim boys attend and Dena found it difficult to maintain her concentration because the youngest of the three was in the front row

shaking his head and wagging his finger at strategic moments such as when she said, "Jesus is the son of God!" Thankfully they weren't otherwise disruptive and Dena later pointed out to the three that they had heard a different message that day and could now consider in their hearts what was the truth. The club in Cártama was well attended and we also had some adult visitors stop in to ask questions about the church. The pastor's wife has let us know that one of those ladies has already attended a regular church service

since Dena spoke with her. We turned in the paperwork to renew our residence while we



were in Spain and were informed that this new card will be good for the next 10 years! While we don't have plans to return to live in Spain full time immediately, it was exciting to know that the Lord has opened the possibility for us to do that anytime in the next 10 years. We need to return to Spain in October to pick up those new residence cards in person and Bill has picked up an extra painting job to help pay for those plane tickets.

Once we returned to Michigan it was "all hands on deck" to get ready for the soccer tournament here on August 16th. Joel and our son, Joshua, put in a lot of extra time handing out flyers and at first it seemed that we would have a turnout so huge we worried about the logistics. The weather that day was 90 degrees which is really hot to run around in full sun, so we think that had a lot to do with some of the teams who didn't show up, however we did still have around the same amount of people as we did last year. The incredible part was the response to the gospel message this year- when Joel gave the invitation there were lots of hands raised and after the event we had decision cards with 16 marked for salvation and 7 marked for the option to talk about

the gospel more! One of the decisions was a man we've been working with for a year and a half. The first contact was through the Pregnancy Helpline but since then this young couple has attended our church services and he has participated in both the soccer tournament and the fishing tournament. The lady had told Dena that she had trusted Christ at the Helpline but she also reafirmed her salvation at the soccer tournament. It was an

unspeakable joy to see both of them follow the Lord in baptism last night in our service! This young man, from a very Catholic family,



MI tournament gospel presentation



has been so changed that immediately after baptism he asked if he could share a testimony with the congregation. We continue to pray with him for his family and that God will continue to transform his life in such a way that they see the difference and want to follow Jesus too. We are already talking with two others about getting baptized next time, one being a teen boy whose salvation was mentioned in our last letter!

It has been great having Joel and Esther here to help with the Spanish work and we will miss them when they return to Spain this Saturday. They continue to pray and seek God for His guidance in their lives as they have surrendered to full-time Christian ministry. As for us, in some ways we are entering a new season of life and ministry as our youngest child is beginning college about an hour away from us this month. We are working on new prayer cards with *just the two of us* and also a new ministry video to highlight how the Lord is leading us and using us for His glory. At the same time, nothing has changed and we continue to be faithful to God's calling on our lives and the ministries He has placed us in at this time. For now we don't have anyone who is able to take over the Spanish work in Michigan although we continue to work with some who feel God could use them to teach or preach and one of those men will be filling in later on this month when we are gone for a mission conference in Texas. People are trusting Christ and choosing to follow Him and we are grateful to be a part of what God is doing both in West Michigan and also in Southern Spain! Thank you so much for your prayers and support for us and the ministry to which God has called us.

Serving Him together, Bill and Dena Rose