

December 31. 2023

Greetings from Madrid!

It has been just over three months since Tim's dad, Ray Dysert, died and went to be with his Savior, Jesus. One of the things we kept of his and brought back to Spain with us was a Bible gifted to him by his Aunt Mildred Taylor when he was a boy. Not surprisingly, Ray had underlined John 3:16. Besides that verse, he had underlined the first part of only one other verse: Galatians 3:14. It says, "***That the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ...***" We know that through faith, Abraham was justified. The Scriptures tell us later in Acts 15:14 that God is calling out a people from among the Gentiles, too, for his name's sake. Is there a better way to close this year than by showing how God is continuing to save sinners by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and how the Good News of the Gospel is continuing to spread around world?

I can share several examples from our small group. Last evening, Jose asked for prayer for his loved one in Ecuador, who was struggling with serious health issues. We are praying that through these challenges, Elena would be more receptive to her need for a Savior and turn to Christ. On Christmas day, Rosa, who is preparing to be baptized and added to our church, flew home to Peru, where she hasn't been for over six years. She left asking God to help her boldly share the Gospel with her husband, Nicolas, and others in her family there.

About a month ago, I got a text from someone I had never met. In that note, I was asked by the young man writing if I would reach out to a Spanish young man who was in Arizona working for a couple of weeks over Thanksgiving, who had stayed with a family that had invited him to go to church. That Sunday, this young Spaniard heard the Gospel and shortly afterward flew back to Madrid. A short while after that, he agreed to meet with me. We talked for an hour and became acquainted, and I shared the Gospel with him about the promised offer of salvation through Jesus Christ to all who believe and how that true saving faith results in a certainty that you are born again. To this young man, the things that he believed about Jesus Christ had to be coupled with works in order to hopefully obtain salvation one day. I suggested that the thief on the cross, who believed, had no time to do such works and was most certainly in Paradise with Jesus that same day.

At our Christmas party last Saturday, we had eight guests who came and heard the Gospel both in song and in testimony. They were all from Ecuador and came from three different families, but the one thing that they all had in common was that they all needed to trust Christ as their Savior. God is continuing his plan of redemption both here in Madrid and in other countries around the globe, and some who hear the Gospel of the Savior, Jesus Christ, are coming to know what placing their faith personally in him really means. Faith still comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God!

We are looking forward to the start of a new year, and we want to please God as a local assembly of believers in 2024. We are going to finish our study of the Gospel of John and continue to look for our own place to meet. Tim plans to emphasize the importance of prayer and personal purity using Philippians 4:8 as our key verse and do a study on the Tabernacle too.

We know that God is at work, and there is much work to do, so let's continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers into his harvest! And let's diligently consider how to encourage one another to love others and do works that show forth the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May God find us faithful as we enter 2024. Thanks so much for your prayers and monthly support!

For hearts in the heart of Spain – and beyond!

Tim and Alice