



October-November Report



November 29, 2016

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you." Ps. 32.8

This verse well expresses our prayer and the Lord's answer during these months, October-November. After "landing" in "el Garraf" county in late May and beginning to work out the vision we initially had, we

understand that the Lord has graciously provided (the sale of our Logroño apartment!!!) and is leading us to his will. We understand that he has confirmed his will for our move here, and we pray he will enable us to serve him and others. Our vision included three areas of ministry, and this is how they are adjusting.

Our Teaching Ministry

This has not changed much from what we expected, perhaps, only increased a bit. We are now teaching Introduction to New Testament and next semester History of Christianity in Spain (this last one presently in preparation). The Lord has added the responsibility of "Practicum," the coordination ministerial practice of the

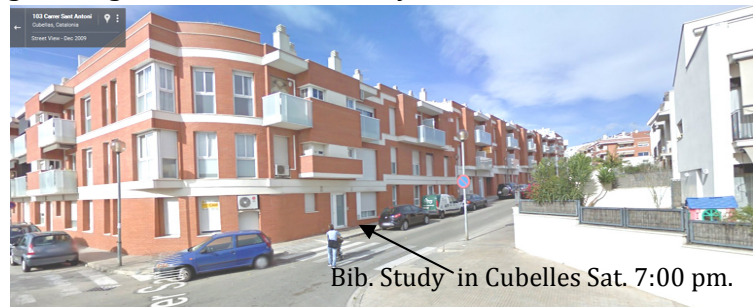


Students and Teachers CURSO ACADÉMICO 2016-17

students and, therefore, the participation in the board of the school. Much more than I thought, I have come to enjoy the orientation and follow up of how around 35 students (2nd through 4th year) as they develop their gifts and serve more effectively in evangelism, youth ministries, or pastoral work. I may tell you that, like most teachers in Facultad Internacional de Teología, my teaching and labor is not remunerated; teachers are supported by their foreign mission boards. Supporting us, therefore, you are also sharing in the formation of these dear young people who desire to serve the Lord in our country. Thank you very much!

Church Planting and our Collaboration with the Church in Vilanova i la Geltrú

Using a project that the Church in Vilanova was promoting, we began to lead a Bible study in Cubelles and another one in Catalan in Vilanova. Another door was opening for a home Bible study in Sitges, which for difficulty of schedule we could not fully work out. We set up the paper work to be registered as an association (a first legal step towards a later mission church). An opening for a radio program came up unexpectedly. Helping also the church of Vilanova, after a few week-ends, all of this clearly became a load difficult to maintain. After prayer and consideration, we talked with the pastor of the church in Vilanova and came up with some light as how were we to distribute our efforts.



The pastor of the church (in his mid seventies), along with other past church leaders and mature believers, considers a good brother in his late thirties by the name of Jairo as a pastoral candidate. However, as Jairo's ministerial education is not finished, the "passing of the baton" does not seem yet appropriate. In this situation, the church board invited me to be a part of a "composite" pastoral board that could take the baton; but as I said previously, added to our church planting, this meant

an overload difficult to maintain. Finally, what we have seen from the Lord is this: For a period of two years, as

we develop contacts and see better where and with whom we start a mission church, we will be directly involved with the church in Vilanova for two years. In these two years we will endeavor to contribute to the completion of Jairo's ministerial education. At the end of these two years, we will present a "diagnosis" to the church and a plan for the next years. After these two years, therefore, we will focus fully on our church planting ministry.

Like our teaching, this service will not mean any added support for us, except paying for ministerial expenses. But we believe it could mean a very valuable contribution to this church, especially in light of the scarcity of pastors from Spain. And for us, it may provide a wiser and firmer foundation for our church planting ministry. We have consulted with our mission's board and with our national supervisor and they have seen this procedure as appropriate and convenient. Even though a few administrative steps have to be taken in the next couple of months, our disposition to help and the mission's blessing on it has brought much relief and joy to the board of the church in Vilanova.

Thank you for your Prayers and Support

It is written concerning Priscila and Aquila that all the gentile churches thanked the Lord for them. Before we fully launch our church planting efforts, the Lord seems to be opening these doors to serve others, particularly our teaching and our pastoral assistance to Jairo and this congregation. We rejoice greatly in the Lord and desire that you will rejoice with us as well, praying that these to whom we serve will thank the Lord for the service that we might give, both sinners and saints. Thank you very much for making this ministry possible.

May the Lord richly bless you in this Christmas Season, and may he bless all your activities, efforts, and family gatherings.

In Christ,



Manuel and Rosa Martínez.

