



*Loving students, connecting with Christ.*

CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2011

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP – “THE NUCLEO”

On April 7, 2005, En Vivo opened its doors for the first time to college students in Salamanca with the purpose of loving them and connecting them with Christ.

On April 7 of this year, we celebrated 6 years of En Vivo with a Thursday night Bible study put on for the first time ever by our leadership and discipleship group, the Núcleo. The staff showed up as “students” and enjoyed the night as we watched this dedicated group take the lead. It was a great way to celebrate God’s faithfulness and to witness the work that the Lord has done among students in this city!

This semester with the Núcleo, we took on the challenge of studying the Church. Over the years we have struggled with how to get our students involved in a local church. We have found that many of them are hesitant or just aren’t interested in going to church, so we wanted to begin a study with them to answer some of their questions, hopefully help them to see that the Church is God’s plan to reach the world, and to encourage them to be a part of it.

The majority of the students that formed a part of the Núcleo this semester are graduating or returning to their home cities and countries. After studying the Church, many of them have expressed their intentions of finding a local church to be involved in wherever they end up. Praise God! Please pray with us that God would direct their paths to the churches He wants them to be a part of.

## SPRING RETREAT – “PINOS REALES”

In March we held our 6th Spring Retreat in Pinos Reales, taking a group of 27 students with us. Nearly half were non-believers. Some of them are searching, while some of them aren’t even

interested in giving the Gospel a chance. Beth is one of the latter.

During the first talk given by our speaker, we watched as Beth left the room because she didn’t want to listen. In the next two talks, although she didn’t leave the room, she decided to sit apart from everyone and play on her computer. Later, in a conversation with the retreat speaker, Timoteo, Beth would tell him, “It’s just that I don’t believe any of this.”

However, what’s truly incredible is that even knowing that we were going to be talking about God all weekend, Beth decided to come with us. In fact, although she holds tight to her atheism, she continues coming to our weekly events at En Vivo, and she even helped us organize an event at her residence. Her friends make fun of her for coming to En Vivo; one of her professors told her that going to En Vivo wasn’t good for her mental health; she herself says that she doesn’t believe what we say at En Vivo ... but she keeps on coming. I believe that she’s drawn to the love of Christ, though she doesn’t know it yet.

This is our ministry in Salamanca: loving the students, connecting them with Christ. We strive to create a place and a community where students can feel welcomed by Christ’s love, and we continue to pray that each one of them will turn to Christ and surrender their lives to Him.



## STUDENT STORIES

**MAIKE:** Maike is a German student we met at church who has come to do volunteer work in Salamanca. She attended church regularly, so we asked her to join a small group with some of the students at En Vivo



Spring retreat.



Meal at the spring retreat.

who have established faiths but are still looking to learn and grow. After the first meeting, it became clear what Maike's stance on Christianity was: She had full belief in God, but held severe reservations about Jesus' role in our lives. After some difficult questions and discussions, Maike has agreed to search for Jesus. Please pray that God will work in Maike's heart and open her eyes to see Jesus as her Savior.

**CARMEN:** Carmen was introduced to En Vivo in the fall of 2007, like most students, interested in learning English.



She was not at all interested in Christianity, but really loved learning English and began to make friends. In the spring of 2008 she told us, "I respect the way you guys live, but I'm never going to become a Christian."

Nonetheless, Carmen continued to attend different events over the years. She met with exchange students, staff, and interns for coffee. She read Christian books and participated

in small groups. She loves to serve, and often was the first person to help cook, clean, and even translate our sermons! She slowly became a huge part of the community in En Vivo.

Two years later, on the spring retreat of 2010, Carmen told us she had decided that she was going to start trying to follow Jesus. It was a great attempt to put into words what all of us are trying to do!

A few weeks ago we heard Carmen say out loud, "I believe in Jesus." It has been an amazing 3-year start to Carmen's faith journey; one in which we have been privileged to be active observers! Thank you for all your faithful prayers that have softened Spanish hearts like Carmen's over the years.

### NATIONAL RECRUITING

This past semester God has given us the opportunity to share with other ministries around Spain about what En Vivo is doing in Salamanca. It all started last year in 2010 when the national evangelical television program came to Salamanca to interview us and do a report on what En Vivo does for its weekly activities and how we share God's love with college students. This program airs



Carmen serving.



Student leaders in charge of Bible study.



Guys warm-up for Flamenco Futbol.



Winning goal for the girls.

each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. on one of the national channels, and it generated a lot of interest in En Vivo.

Then this past April we had the chance to attend the largest missions conference in Spain, which takes place every 2 years in Madrid, called Mission Possible. We set up a booth and shared with tons of young Spanish Christian kids about the opportunities there are to serve God and share their faith with college students in Salamanca. Following that, this past month in May, we had the chance to attend a special conference among church leaders from across Spain. There Jesse had the chance to explain to over 80 Spanish pastors and missionaries about the vision and ministry of



Globalscope and En Vivo. God has slowly brought the work of En Vivo to the forefront of what God is doing in Spain. We are praying that God will use these different conferences and programs to raise up a new generation of Spaniards committed to

the Great Commission and passionate about reaching college students.

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise God for an incredible End of the Year Banquet! We had 74 students (our largest number ever) join us for an elegant sit-down dinner where we say goodbye to our graduating seniors, award prizes, and celebrate the year. Among the 74 students there were over 15 countries represented.

One of the most encouraging parts of the Banquet for us as a team is that we often receive really wonderful feedback from our students about how the year has been. Andresa, a doctoral student who has been involved at En Vivo for 4 years now, said something so kind and beautiful that it almost sounds as if it could be a prayer. She shared, "I feel like God has taken En Vivo into His hands and that He will do great things here; He will bring in new people to continue His work. En Vivo has been wonderful to me! Before coming here I was a very 'comfortable' Christian, but En Vivo has challenged me to share my faith and serve. God really is moving here."



End of the Year Banquet dinner.



Graduating seniors at the End of the Year Banquet.

Sarah shared with us that, "Even though I don't believe in God, I always feel welcomed here, I always feel like the people at En Vivo want me around."

- Pray with us as En Vivo moves into its more relaxed summer schedule. We will be hosting two summer interns, Philip and Aaron, through CMF's REACH internship program and they will be assisting us in leading small groups, English conversation classes, and lots of fun hang-out activities.
- Praise God for a great missions trip to Portugal! We raised over 1,000 euros to support the team who went through selling desserts, coffee, as well as a benefit concert and auction. We are so thankful for all the students who went with us!
- Please pray with us for students like Maïke, Beth, and Carmen as God continues to move in their lives and draw them closer to Him.

Thank you for being a vital part of the amazing things that God has done and is doing in Salamanca. None of this would be possible without your faithful prayers and financial support. We hope you will continue to pray with us as we move into the summer semester and look forward to an exciting fall.

With love,  
**Jesse & Sophie Bentley, Chris Beirne, Ansley Cleveland, Lauren Love, Laura Bowers, Joan Cramer, Matthew Robertson, Hernán De la cruz**  
 Team Globalscope-Spain



Benefit concert.



Picnic by the river.

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