

July, 2010

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from the Land of Euphoria!!!! Wednesday night we watched the World Cup soccer finals and then joined in all of the excitement when ... **SPAIN WON!!!** The aftermath was incredible: horns, cheers, fireworks, singing, and a pool full of people celebrating at midnight. I guess Paul the Octopus just doesn't know how to be wrong. ;;;;Long live El Pulpo!!!!

Another moment of celebration for us came when Don went this morning and picked up his new, renewed five year Residency Card, which means the Spanish government says he can live here for five more years. My (Joan's) card is due to arrive at the beginning of the week we are scheduled to leave for the States. **Please pray** that there are no snafus or bureaucratic holdups as I do not want to depart the country without it.

When we wrote our prayer letter last month, I (Joan) was off for my week at the Hospitality House in Ligonde , Galicia on the Camino de Santiago. The time I spent there was amazing. I went with a group of



gals of all ages and stages of life. Most of us work full-time with Agape here in Spain, but there were young college students and two women along with their daughters too. During our week-long stay we hosted travelers from all over the world: Germany, England, France, Italy, Hungary, USA, Spain and Canada. It is hard to calculate how many people exactly we greeted, though I would guess the number to be in the hundreds. Each Camino traveler

carries with them a Camino de Santiago passport, which they are eager to get stamps for to document their journey. Only



officially sanctioned spots on the trail are allowed to help fill up the passport and ours in one such place. We happily stamped their official 'passport'. We also offered free coffee or cool water to drink, gave them a place to sit down and rest, shared literature about the Camino, and handed out the Campus Crusade-produced DVD about Jesus.



There were times too where we treated sore feet and blisters or called for a cab to take a sick person to the nearest medical clinic.

Each evening as we, the volunteers, prepared a hot meal for the ten to twenty pilgrims who chose to make ours their sleeping quarters for the night. We sat around the tables talking and they shared stories and thoughts about their travels on the Camino. Two of the evenings we had so many people staying for supper we carried the tables outside and ate under the nearby shade trees.



After the meal the weary travelers retired to the sleeping quarters. The Hospitality House/Albergue has ten beds with clean sheets available inside the house and a sheltered-barn where we can offer 6-9 people a cot to sleep on. Did I mention a shower with hot water also? As we have heard time and again, these are much nicer accommodations than most travelers find along the trail!

Before we the volunteers retired to our own beds, we left food for breakfast on the table for the morning. Each morning the walkers were off again no later than 8:30 a.m. Some were off by 5 a.m.-before the heat of the day.

Our daily duties did not end there. Each day we cleaned the Albergue, washed and changed the bedding, greeted and talked with people. Our days often concluded after midnight! Having to rise each day at 7 a.m. I came home really, really tired. Needless to say I was glad to sleep ten hours my first night home.



Since being home from his own trip to Ligonde, Don has been in contact with two men who are wanting to take the Exchanged Life mentoring material and put it into an e-Mentoring format. Over the last several years of using the material, we have come to see a need for follow-up and a greater accessibility to help and continuation of training others to carry on mentoring. We have received permission from the office of Exchanged Life in Colorado to use the material for the new e-Mentoring, naturally giving credit to them for the material and that people will not sell or duplicate the material without permission. So **please pray with us** as this process proceeds. We are extremely hopeful that it will indeed fill a gap and build a movement for the spiritual growth of those in Spain.



Some of you may or may not know that Bethany, Jeremy, and the boys are leaving New Orleans and moving to Modesto this month. Jeremy has taken a job in California, which begins in August. They are now in the process of boxing and packing for the truck that will take their belongings at the end of this week. Jeremy's parents, Chuck and Cheryl Bryant, are going back to help get the cars, children, and extras carted back to California. **Please pray for all of them** as they make this cross-country move; Cheryl, Bethany and the boys in airplane and the 'big boys' driving the cars. . Somehow we missed



being around to help by two weeks. Something tells me, though, that we will be helping out plenty at the other end

We leave at the end of this month for our six-month stay in California. During these next few weeks we will be meeting with people and sorting out the last minute details of leaving. We are looking forward to these six months immensely. It is unbelievable that we can have so much time with our kids and grandkids as well as other family and friends. Don is also eager to become involved in some sort of a ministry to and with men. We covet **your prayers** over the next few weeks as we prepare for our next mini adventure.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Joan and Don