

REPORT ON THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

29 June 2020

Due to the pandemic, these past few months have caused us all to realize how much we treasure the saints and miss *being* with the saints, not only with those of our respective localities, but with all those whom we would have been able to blend nationally and internationally. However, we are thankful for the technology. It seems the Lord did not leave the saints without a way to see and “*be*” with each other, albeit online, and through it, we all have been broadened more with respect to the universal aspect of the Body, having been able to “meet” with saints from other parts of the world. In doing so, we see the manifestation of the one new man, with saints from all over the earth being of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus, and with one accord enjoying, and with one mouth speaking the mysteries of the economy of God.

As a result of taking advantage of the means to meet virtually, there have been many more meetings locally and internationally requiring considerable technical support for the smooth functioning of the way we have our blending times. The full-time serving saints have been directly and fully involved in providing that technical support in a transnational and international coordination. In addition, the need for translation into Spanish has also increased accordingly, involving translation of the outlines and ministry excerpts, translation of the pre-recorded messages, and live translation during the prophesying times. It has been intense but enjoyable.

Just before the Spanish lockdown, some of our full-time serving ones were visiting their families. Once the lockdown was implemented, it was prudent for them to remain in their respective localities rather than returning to Madrid, which was the epicenter of the outbreak in Spain. This gave them the opportunity to shepherd the saints and in particular the young people in those localities which have seen a much milder impact of the coronavirus.

In the early days of the pandemic, Spain was one of the hardest-hit countries in the world. Spain implemented one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe. By mid-May the situation began to slowly improve, and the state of emergency has been lifted as of June 21; however, the number of infections continue, albeit at a low level. Because of this, the church in Madrid has felt to be cautious and has decided not to meet physically yet until after the video training in mid-July and see what the situation will be at that time. Although the decisions of the church in Madrid are not imposed on the other localities, they are happy to follow Madrid. We feel that there is a sweet harmony amongst all the saints and localities in the Peninsula.

For the video training we have decided to carry it out with the entire Peninsula together. It will be a good opportunity for those who have never attended a semi-annual training either live or by video to see how a training is conducted. We will do our best to ensure all the regulations are properly conveyed to the saints and observed by the saints, including the testings.

Since last year we began to pay particular attention to a group of five graduating college students who have manifested a genuine desire to attend the Full-time Training this autumn comprised of one brother and four sisters. The brother has been approved to apply to FTTA while the four sisters will apply to FTTL. All of them are Spanish, have been raised up in the church life, and have attended the European Young People’s Conference in Poland multiple times. Now they have

come of age, will shortly finish their college careers, and are willing, ready, and eager to be trained. We hope and pray that there will be no hindrances for their acceptance to the respective Full-time Trainings and no obstacles presented for their actual going to the training centers.

Because our full-time serving ones have been fully involved in supporting the various online blending times, we have not had the chance to really devote much time specifically to outreach. However, we did schedule a webinar on July 4th, issuing over 10,000 invitations to our contacts from Bibles for Europe, Rhema and the radio. We received over 250 registrations and about 100 of these registrants joined the webinar, 40% being contacts (the other 60% were saints). Three of those who connected to the webinar requested further contact through the follow-up contact form. We will be sending a link with the webinar video to those who were not able to make it so that they have the opportunity to catch up and enter into what was enjoyed. Our plan is to continue having these webinars indefinitely, with a frequency of once every two months. We pray that through these webinars, many seeking believers will be manifested whom we can shepherd into the church life.

After the meeting hall was purchased in Madrid in late 2018 on an “as is” condition as stipulated in the contract, we began to look into the areas indicated by the previous owner that needed improvement. Now that the lockdown has been lifted, we are again in dialogue with the contractors to carry out the required upgrades of the electrical system, to install new and more efficient air conditioning units, to carry out some necessary improvements to the facility, and to rectify a basement flooding and humidity problem.

The migration of a couple from Boston to Lisbon is still on track. We continue to pray that the Lord will remove all hindrances due to the coronavirus so they can arrive there in mid-July and that the Lord would open all the doors for them to quickly get settled. We feel now is the time for the Lord to raise up a lampstand in Lisbon and to move in Portugal. Once the couple takes up residence in Lisbon, we pray that many young saints will feel comfortable to migrate there to join in the Lord’s move in that country.

A relatively new family, but fully rooted in the recovery, will move from Barcelona to the city of Lugo in the Community of Galicia (the political divisions in Spain are called Autonomous Communities) in early August. Galicia is located in the northwest of Spain, north of Portugal. The husband is Galician, and since he came into the recovery, he has had a burden for his family and the people of that region. There is currently in Lugo a family who immigrated there from Cuba. So, there will be two families in Lugo to commence the church life. With the example of this migration, we hope others in the Peninsula will see a vision and eventually have the burden for intra-Peninsula migrations.

We have created a website for La Obra MSPI, the work entity in the Iberian Peninsula: www.laobramspi.es. It is still under construction, but it is functional. We will develop it in the coming weeks and months, and it will also be available in English. Please feel free to access the site and take a look.