

# Reaching Young People in Spain

When we left Northern Ireland in May 2001 to serve the Lord in Spain we never imagined we would be doing what we now are doing. In fact, I had not owned a video camera let alone had operated one. But as we served the Lord in Puertollano we soon realised that barriers were being broken down with the help of the audiovisual material we were producing on DVD. In the comfort of their own home, people could see that the Evangelical Church was not a strange sect but rather that we wanted to share the love of God with them and it wasn't long before Roman Catholics were saying things like, *"it's amazing what the Evangelical Church is doing", "they aren't a strange cult", "I want to send my children to camp next year"*.

The FIEIDE (Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches in Spain), with whom we work in Spain, heard about this and asked if I could make a DVD that could be sent to all the churches in Spain to inform and mobilize Christians to get involved in the Lord's work in Spain and in other countries. I agreed to give it a go and I remember thinking afterwards, "How on earth am I going to do this?" But "When God calls, he also equips for the task."

It was out of this that a new ministry for us developed and I am now setting up an audiovisual department for FIEIDE based in Northern Ireland. Yes, it seemed strange to us, too, a few months ago – the thought of having a ministry into Spain and living in Northern Ireland, but we strongly believe the Lord has guided us to this point. The past 8 years in Spain have been a vital preparation for this new ministry.

I will work alongside FIEIDE's Mission and Evangelism team in the production of audiovisuals to motivate the Spanish Christians to get involved in world mission. I will also assist FIEIDE's online theological school by producing teaching DVDs to be sent to the students throughout Spain and also uploaded to the school's website.

I will also seek to produce evangelistic audiovisuals which can be used on internet sites and networking sites like

Facebook. These will be great ways to share God's love with others.

According to recent studies 80% of Spanish young people are registered on at least one social network i.e. Facebook, Myspace, and 70% of these network users have registered in the past two years. We need to reach young people in Spain where they are and many of them are now on the Internet.

God has given us powerful resources which are relevant to people of all ages in this generation. The challenge is for us to use what he has given us to share the good news about Jesus for his glory and honour.

Susan too will have her own role in the ministry and writes:

"During our time in Spain I always felt a great burden for the children; it's where I feel most comfortable ministering. I noticed that in Spain there was a lack of resources for children's work, with little thought really put into what children should be taught and how they should be taught. It's not just enough to tell children a Bible story every week and get them to colour in a picture, they need to learn about God in a structured way and learn how to apply Gods principles to their own lives.

So since returning to the UK I have been asked by FIEIDE to help set up

a curriculum for the Spanish Sunday schools and also to help provide them with more resources for the churches. I was delighted when I came in contact earlier this year with the Director of 'Go Teach' Sunday School material and was given the go ahead to translate it into Spanish. Over the next few years I am hoping with the help of others to translate Go Teach into Spanish and to be able to have this published and made available in Spain and also other Spanish speaking countries.

For me it has been a great source of encouragement to see how the leaders of Go Teach have been so willing to allow this to happen and for their excitement about the project. Alongside this ministry I also hope to help in the online Spanish theological school. Please also pray for the opportunity I have to go into primary schools here in Northern Ireland for a couple of hours a week to teach Spanish to the children, that God would use me in this as well.

**Jonathan & Susan Sanlon**



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