

Spain in Focus 20/20

Focusing on the
spiritual needs of Spain

by Josh Fajardo

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(January 20th)

Praying for **twenty** minutes on day
twenty of each month. Fasting
on that day as well (if you can).

Reasons to Pray!

- FM churches in Spain. For the activities being planned for the spring. For Light & Life Christian Community, in Rivas (Madrid) and for the Emanuel FMC in Lanzarote (Canary Islands).
- Lavapies cultural center. Please continue to pray for the future ministry center in this neighborhood.
- For Kris Mahnke's adjustment to a new culture and ministry.
- A smooth process in registering the FM church in Spain.
- The church has begun a 30-day fast. Please keep us in prayer as we seek answers only God can provide.

When Susy, the girls (Gabriela and Isabella) and I first arrived, we found ourselves listening and observing. Everything about Spain was new and different. We began to ask the Lord, "How are You planning to use us here?" We felt the Lord leading us to pray for the people and the country. We also felt the Lord prompting us to learn more about our adopted people so we would know how to pray. This meant we needed to know the people intimately. We needed to become Spaniards, since we were attempting to become incarnational. So our desire for reaching the lost in Spain had to be focused on knowing and loving the people.

As we continued listening and learning, we felt drawn to the rich history of our new adopted land. We were aware of Spain's contribution to world history. But, reading about history and living in the country are two different things.

Let us share a few things about this great country. Spain has a history of exploring and discovering new lands. Spaniards are a proud people with a rich culture and wonderful traditions, such as flamenco music, cured ham and, of course, the famous running of the bulls in the city of Pamplona, just to mention a few. Spain is credited with having the largest empire in modern times. They are also credited with sending the first missionaries to the New World.

The changes that have taken place in Spain over the last two centuries – most certainly the last 30 years – are astonishing. This once powerful nation has lost 90 percent of its empire through several wars. It has struggled through several economic depressions, and in the last century, was governed by a dictator for 40 years, after a four-year civil war. Dictatorship has led to spiritual repression and limited economic growth.

Once the dictator, Franco, died in 1975, the country began looking toward the future. They joined the European Union and began

the fast track to economic recovery. Spain was once considered one of the poorest countries in Western Europe. Now it has the fifth largest economy in Europe and the fastest growing economy in all of Europe. People are hopeful and making plans for the future. The country has entered the global economy at full speed. The attitude is, "We have to catch up – the 40 years of dictatorship kept us in chains, and we have to prove to the rest of the world who we are."

This national pride and desire to push the country forward sounds like great news, doesn't it? The reality is this: Spain was once known for having the highest moral values in Western Europe, but this priority has been replaced by the desire for financial independence. This new attitude has changed the social fabric of the society. Many are concerned that Spain is headed in the wrong direction. We often hear, "The pendulum has swung the opposite direction, and it seems that everything goes."

Sharing a short summary of Spain's history helps you know what is on our hearts as we minister and live in this wonderful country. It is our strong desire that believers, wherever they may live, would decide to share our burden for Spain and its people.

As we began our ministry, we felt God calling us to commit to more quality prayer time and to involve our prayer partners as well. Out of this, *Spain in Focus 20/20* was initiated. We asked our prayer partners to commit with us to a time of fasting and prayer, praying for specific concerns for 20 minutes on the 20th day of each month. From time to time, we have shared how God has answered prayer through this mutual commitment. Together we can do great things for the Lord, but it all must begin with prayer. Prayer is how He knows of our desires and how we can communicate what is on our hearts.

Thank you very much for partnering with us! Please continue to keep Spain in focus.



Participate in Spain in Focus 20/20. Go to Fajardo's newsletters at www.fmwm.org/missionary/index/fajardo.php for prayer requests.

prayer partner

RWANDA (Julie Yerger, October 2007)

The trip over was uneventful. It makes for a dull story when you are writing a newsletter, but you know, I prefer a dull story to an exciting trip full of problems. A prayer partner prayed for me to have three seats to myself so I could sleep during the flight. The flight between Amsterdam and Nairobi was less than half full; I had my three seats. I slept most of the flight, which felt so good.