

# magnify the LORD

Ministry Updates of David Bonikowsky

## A Growing Ministry

Having spent nearly my entire life on the mission field in Spain, I've had at least a tiny part in church ministry here for 24 years now. During that time, I've lived through, dare I say, almost monotonous times with little external, visible growth apparent in the local church. My patience is no match for the Holy Spirit's, so "slow times" were discouraging. Then though, there were times when it seemed hard to even keep up with all the opportunities the Holy Spirit was providing. I remember a time of several months as a young boy when God seemed to open the floodgates of blessing. It was exciting to come to church on Sundays just to see what visitors would be there for the first time! Jesus promised "I will build my church," and nothing is more fulfilling than watching the construction process!

The past few months have been part of the second category. It has been a thrill to see Jesus at work here in Irun. In my last update I shared the news of Amadeo's salvation. Since then, he has been growing continuously. I've been meeting with him and a friend every week now for Bible or "doctrine" studies, and they ask for more time together. It is a joy to see Amadeo's infectious smile in church each time the doors are open. He carries his Bible with him 24/7 now and shares with me what he reads.



You may remember that one of the guys brought Amadeo with him a Saturday in November when the young people from church got together to play soccer. It was from there that he began coming to church, and eventually received Christ. For the past few months, I've been going out every week to play soccer in town with anyone who shows up. It has been an excellent way to make contact with unsaved people from town, and I've formed several acquaintances and

friendships through soccer since starting. One of the guys I got to know was Carlos. His family is Catholic, but he had been living rebelliously for a while. About a month ago, Amadeo, who plays soccer with me and knows Carlos well, brought him along for one of our Saturday youth meetings. Carlos was welcomed and had a great time, and came back the next week. Then he started coming to church on Sundays as well.



**Carlos on the left, Amadeo on the right Also Iñigo**

God recently brought another young man to our church as well. His name is Iñigo. He's a very quiet, shy person, but it has been awesome to have another unsaved person coming weekly to church to hear the Gospel. Well, last week, God gave a special surprise! After a special evening service, both Carlos and Iñigo asked to speak with a leader once the service was done. My grandfather spoke with Carlos, and I went to the back of the church with Iñigo. After going through the Gospel once more, Iñigo prayed with me asking Christ to save him, and Carlos did the same

with my grandfather! This Sunday both were back in church with bigger smiles than I'd ever seen on either of them.

Please pray especially hard for these guys. In the coming years, I hope to be able to share the things God is doing through the changed lives of Amadeo, Carlos, and Iñigo. I know He has great plans for them, but like each one of us, they need the miraculous hand of God to mold them into useful servants. Please consider praying for them on a regular basis.

I'll finish with an anecdote I thought was a great testimony. A few days ago, Carlos came to the discipleship class I'm doing with Amadeo. As Amadeo leafed through his Bible, Carlos jokingly asked him if he'd read through the whole thing yet. Amadeo answered very seriously, "estoy en ello," or "I'm working on it." Please pray that the Lord would use these discipleship opportunities in their lives. Please pray that God would give me the passion to lead with all my energy and the wisdom I lack for counseling.

God bless,  
David  
Ps. 34:3