



### Growth in Church

*This update is somewhat special in that it will talk much more specifically about individuals in our congregation. Since everyone has access to the internet, I want to remind people to please not post this email for viewing online to respect the privacy of those included. I always post a public, shareable update on my website, [bonikowsky.org](http://bonikowsky.org), which I encourage people to use if they want to share info on social media or church websites.*

This past year has been very exciting for our church. We are seeing a greatly increased number of visitors. Some of them just pass through but others have stayed. In this update I'll mention a few of the newer people in church and share how you can join us in praying for them.

### **Unai and Dor**



In the summer of 2021, a young couple came to church for the first time. The husband was Basque and the wife from Nicaragua. They were very young (recently married in fact) and it turns out they were looking for a place to grow spiritually. They had both come to know the Lord the year before in a more charismatic church in the area, but they had left as they were looking for a church that was more serious about discipleship. This was the first time I'd ever heard that from visitors! For the first few months, they came to services inconsistently. Both of them were working very long hours (her job in a nursing home kept her busy often on Sundays). As a church, we prayed a lot for their respective job situations. They both had to work as they were really struggling financially. But early this year the Lord started changing things for the better. His job is going better now, and they let us know that they are expecting a baby in December! They are now in church every week, wanting to participate in everything. It's wonderful to see their genuine desire to grow. Unai and I started doing Bible studies and he is enthusiastic about learning.

**Pray for:**

- Their **baby**, due in December
- **Financial stability** for them
- Spiritual **maturity**. They are young believers, newlyweds, and soon-to-be parents!

**Domingos and Marinez**



In late 2021 **Domingos** and his wife **Marinez** came to church for the first time. They were also already believers. They are an elderly couple who moved to the area from Portugal and had also only found charismatic churches in our area. On the Sunday when they first visited, he told me that since Portuguese was their primary language, it was very helpful to find a pastor who spoke more slowly because they could much more easily understand me! I think in some of the churches they'd been in, enthusiasm was prioritized over nuance! Ever since they came they've been a huge blessing in our church. Leire (who's 2 now) is absolutely enamored with Marinez. Everyone is happy to have them in church with us.

**Pray for:**

- **Health** issues Marinez faces
- Requests for their **family**. Some of them will be coming to Spain to join them soon.
- **Wisdom** for me to pastor an older generation

**Jhossimar and Vanesa**



In May of this year, another couple came to church for the first time. **Jhossimar, Vanesa**, and 8-month-old **Anni** are immigrants from Colombia. They arrived in Spain right before Anni was born, and moved to Rentería where the church is just recently. They come from a Christian background, but once again it seems it was a Christianity-lite sort of church history. They haven't been with us for long, but they've impressed us with their optimistic attitude in a challenging living situation and their motivation to work diligently. We prayed with them for months that the Lord would allow their brother and sister to make it to Spain as well, and the Lord brought them here in July.



**Harri and Sofia**

These are the younger siblings of the aforementioned couple. A pair of brothers married a pair of sisters in their case. Like their brother and sister, they are very hard-working and have a great attitude. We're praying with them for a home for them to rent. Currently, the 4 of them, plus baby Anni, are living in a single bedroom rented from another family. But it is extremely crowded and they really need a place of their own. Due to a number of factors, it is very difficult to rent or buy in the region where we are. Both couples seem very interested in participating in church. We hope it stays that way and we're happy for the chance to serve them.

**Pray for:**

- Their challenging **housing** situation
- Permanent **jobs** for all of them
- **Wisdom** as I seek to nurture in them a genuine desire to grow and serve Christ

Please keep praying with us for the growth of our church, both spiritually and numerically. It is of course exciting to see new people coming to a church that is still very small, but our goal is as always to make disciples and equip them to do the same.

*And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

Acts 2:46-47

God bless,  
David

Psalm 34:3



*A church fellowship meal*





*Unai reading during a Sunday service*



*Men's retreat at the Aierdi Farmhouse*



*Regional ladies' meeting organized by Raquel*