



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## Deputation Report 2013

By Rev Lyle Boyd, Missionary Spain.



Rev. Lyle Boyd with his family

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have remembered us in prayer and have sacrificed in supporting us for the past twenty-seven years, labouring in the land of Spain. We are indeed indebted.

I bring you greetings from my wife, Heather and all our congregation. For quite some years now, Heather has been involved in teaching English as a foreign language and has broken down barriers and got to know quite a few folk. Miss Joy Gillespie who lives in an apartment built above the church, has worked with us for some fifteen years now and also teaches English. Her work has involved outreach through the book tables in three different markets as well as looking after the Sunday school and children's meeting. Pray for her that she will be able to reach many in and around the area of the church.

Also, I bring greetings from the Rev. John Hanna and Angel Alvarez in Alcorcón, just south of Madrid. They have recently extended their church building as many of the young couples have had children and the church had become congested with prams!

Also, our brother Jorge Ruiz in Miranda in the north of Spain has been blessed by the Lord in seeing a new group forming in Bilbao on the north coast.

We all covet your prayers for the work in this very pagan land.

### **Roman Catholic**

Being a Roman Catholic country, Spain is a difficult work with many obstacles, but I would say it is even worse now with the influence of atheism. Many of the younger generation have completely turned their backs on anything that has to do with religion, considering all religions as man-made for the sole purpose of conning and robbing the unsuspecting. These people are the most difficult to talk to as they just do not want to listen.

There have been so many scandals which have revealed the true spirit of the Roman Catholic Church.

A recent scandal that has come to light shook the country when it was learned that thousands of babies were stolen from hospitals and clinics throughout Spain in the 1970s and 80s. Mothers up and down the country were told their newborn babies had died, while nuns, priests and doctors were involved in selling those babies to childless couples. Most babies were sold for around 150,000 pesetas (around 800 pounds), enough to buy a house in those days. Recent reports put the stolen babies figure at a massive 300,000 – 600,000. Thanks to DNA testing, many of those children are now aware of their background and 235,000 complaints have been lodged with the courts. The cases outlined here are not the same as the General Franco stolen babies scandal, as many of the newer cases happened after 1975 when Franco ceased to be in power, but were carried on from Franco's time as a lucrative business.

Many parents are still looking for their children, and many children are still looking for their real parents, while the Catholic church is trying to block their efforts.

Is it any wonder the younger generation have become so disillusioned with the Roman Catholic church? What can we expect? They just look on religion as a complete swindle.



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### Matters to pray about

But although we have many obstacles, we have been encouraged of late with a new family who have come along through door to door evangelism from last summer - a family with many problems. A young man came to me with a big problem over 20 years ago. We advised him that the only way he would ever get right was by repenting and turning to Christ. We quickly realised that he only wanted God to fix his problem and get on living his sinful life the way he wanted.

Sadly he rejected that advice and went on his merry way, leading to one disaster after another. Now with the economic crisis he lost his job. So with no income, he has had to return to Beas and now lives with his mother on her pension.

But we have been able to preach Christ to him and he has realised that he made a big mistake in rejecting my advice so long ago, but today he believes that the Lord has been merciful to him, and has given him another opportunity. He now reads his Bible with interest and wants to do that which is right.

Pray for him and his three children who came along each Lord's day and on Wednesday for almost a year, but now their mother has put them into care as she was not able to sustain them. The children's mother now comes on Sundays. Pray that the Lord will keep His hand upon these children and we will see this family transformed by the power of God.

Please also remember a young couple and their two daughters. The mother's grandfather lived in Cortijos Nuevos where we have the church. She asked me what religion we were - Protestants, Jehovah Witnesses etc. I said Protestant, thinking that this would bring the discussion to a speedy end, but it turned out that her grandfather was visited once by some Protestants but being a devoted Roman Catholic, chased them. She was only 12 years old then and said, "Why did you do that? They may have something interesting to say that you might never know." She later visited her grandfather and found that he had let those "pesky Protestants" into his house, and not only that, he seemed different. He seemed very happy and content, and was always reading his Bible. She now has his Bible today.

This, of course, opened the way for me to be able to talk both to her and her husband of the new birth and God's great salvation. She also told me how the priest talked with them in some premarital classes, of the need to confess their sins to him and that he would tell them what to do for forgiveness. She put him over it again: "You mean to say that I have to come to you and confess my sins and that you will tell me to pray a few hail Mary's etc, and I will be forgiven?" He answered "Yes". She promptly replied, "That is a load of rubbish". I was able to tell her that only God can forgive sins, and that salvation is through Christ alone. They have remained very friendly but because of Jose's bad health, they have been unable to come to church. Pray that soon we will see this family singing the praises of God with us for His so great salvation.

There are two founder members of the church and they have had various women who come in to clean for them. This has also given us the opportunity to witness to these women. They have been given Bibles and have shown interest. Pray for these women that the Lord would have mercy on them to the saving of their souls.

### Radio

We praise the Lord for this great opportunity to be able to spread the gospel through the radio. A dear brother in the Lord, R S has been helping with this work now for some years for which we give thanks to the Lord. Many listen to the program each day. A man at a petrol station told me how he listened with tears flowing down his cheeks as he realised he had wasted his life.

Another young man asked me if I spoke on the radio. I said I did. He then told me he listened to the program every day. He stopped with me many years ago as a student still in school and took many tracts, but sad to say, he is now studying for the priesthood. Pray that as he still listens, the Lord would open his eyes to the truth of the gospel.



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## Camp

Some years back a Christian organisation offered to the Protestant church what was an army camp that they had bought but were unable to keep as they had already another camp in the North of Spain. They had already spent £150,000 fixing it but they did not include that in the price. We thought it was a bargain for the good of the work of God in Spain. It was bought among some other churches and has the capacity now of holding camps up to one hundred people. However, it is still an ongoing project as there is much work to be done to have it running at its full potential. It is called "Los Naranjos" and is only a one hour drive from Sevilla. We have had some work teams who have come over from Ulster in the past to help in renovating houses, and putting in a new water filter system which has been a great help. Hopefully there will be more such teams coming in the near future. Pray that it will be used for the glory of God and that many will find Christ there.

## Ecumenism

There is a man, a brother of one of our members who lives in Beas. This man believes you can do more to reach the lost by going soft on Rome. He wants a gospel that is not offensive, but although we do not try to be offensive to anyone, we know that the truth oftentimes hurts, especially when one is convinced they have the truth when they haven't.

He has criticised my preaching as radical and plain wrong as he believes it will not win Roman Catholics but drive them away by telling them the truth.

He now has a radio program each Thursday at the same time as our broadcast, but he never makes any reference to particular verses of the Bible, nor does he give a plain gospel message. It is more a moral talk, and only refers to Christ as someone Who can help them live better, rather than One Who can save them from their sin.

Not only that, he does not believe in hell, but rather annihilation. This of course will only bring confusion, and I believe it is a subtle attack of the devil.

Please pray that he will be defeated and that the Lord will have the victory by a true reformation in the town.

## Priest interview

We were very fortunate to be able to have an interview with a priest. This interview really reveals the subtlety of Rome, putting itself over as a loving thoughtful church. I was totally amazed by what this priest said, thinking it must be only his point of view, and not that of the church of Rome itself.

But since talking to a mechanic recently who was sent to a special school to be educated as a priest, I was informed that when they started to teach him about other religions, he knew God could not be that diverse. They were teaching that, no matter what religion one belonged to, all they had to do was to be faithful to that religion and they would eventually get to heaven. But the mechanic thought, how could a Muslim who classes Christians as infidels and need to be killed, be right following his religion, and Christians as well? They are poles apart.

This, plus the hypocrisy of the wealth of Rome made him leave the church altogether. He concludes that religion is a con game to rob the people.

Pray for him as we had a really good talk with him, that he would come to a knowledge of the truth.

## Crisis

Pray also for the financial and political crisis that Spain is going through - and it really is a crisis, with many committing suicide. We have even heard of some trying to make ends meet by selling their organs. Please pray that we will be able to point the people to Christ, the only One who can give meaning and purpose in



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

this life, that even though things are crumbling around them here in this life, they must prepare for eternity realising that Jesus really did come to earth to be a sacrifice for sin to bring them to God.

We need the Lord to move, and I believe we have seen evidence of that recently as many are starting to worry about the situation, as they do not see any end to it soon. Things just seem to be getting gradually worse.

Praise God, He can use these times to enlighten these poor duped folk to realise what the truth really is. Pray that the Lord would help us as the obstacles are many and sin abounds on every hand.

Pray for our sons that the Lord would guide them as they live over in Ulster now. We miss them a lot, and it is not easy for them as they have no home base, although our families have been very good to them, for which we praise the Lord.

### My thanks

Well, I just want to thank all of God's people for your prayers and support over the years. I know there are many needy works calling for help, and it is difficult to help them all, but we do appreciate all you have done for us, and we know the Lord will bless you for your kindness.

I just would like to leave a verse with you which I believe is very appropriate - Acts 26:18.

"To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," Acts 26:18, KJV.

God in His mercy sent Paul to the Gentiles so many years ago. And we have put this verse on our prayer card because we believe more than ever that the Lord wants us all to do the same today.

Satan is a master deceiver. He has blinded their eyes, and left them in darkness. They are under his power; they do not know how to receive the forgiveness of their sins. Many do not even believe that there is a hereafter, or an inheritance for those sanctified by faith in Christ. They are full of unbelief. They are condemned to suffer the eternal consequences of dying without Christ, without hope, without the knowledge of sins forgiven.

Tell me, are you labouring to spread that knowledge so that they may hear the truth, believe and be saved? Is there anything else more important in this world than that?

Is this not how the Lord can be glorified by the transformation of these poor benighted Roman Catholics who are deeply steeped in idolatry and superstition?

Oh friends, let us get the vision of their true state, and let us not sit idly by as they tramp down the road of delusion and falsehood to a lost eternity.

Pray that the Lord would have mercy and that the chains of Satan would be broken.

Praise God, Christ is able to do it. He whom the Son sets free, is free indeed.

Labour with us in prayer that many more would be liberated from this awful system of Rome, and set free to serve the true Christ, the blessed Saviour.

May the Lord richly bless you all.

Amen.