



Chalks in Córdoba

Missionaries to SPAIN

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2016



“Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” - Esther 4:14

Dear Partners and Friends,

Mordecai’s words to Esther should make us question the reason God has each of us where we are and at the exact time He has us there.

We were in the United States from mid-November to mid-January and although our time there was totally consumed with family and a big problem we encountered, we knew God had us there at that time for a specific purpose. When we checked into D & D Missionary Homes where we always stay, we were told that the 55 homes and land had been sold to Pinellas County and the ministry was closing. However, they were honoring reservations they approved prior to the sale so we would be able to spend our two months there. This was a shock to many people as the announcement was made without any prior indication to supporters or missionaries that this was coming. We sensed in our spirits that something was wrong.

Jack, having been a CPA and very familiar with the operations of nonprofit corporations, went to work. He, with Ann’s help, spent just about all our time there talking to directors, former directors, county officials, lawyers and doing many hours of research on the internet locating prior year’s tax returns and documents filed with the Secretary of State. Our investigations continued and have been very consuming since we returned to Spain. Jack did a telephone interview with a reporter from one of the Tampa Bay news stations after we returned. We are working with a former President of D & D and another former board member who have shared in this investigation but Jack has been the contact to public officials. We see ourselves as the voice of all the donors and missionaries that have been betrayed. That is a good word to describe what has happened.

We have discovered that the Executive Director of D & D was not truthful in the letter that was sent out in November announcing the sale and that the President and Executive Director of D & D along with Pinellas County employees have worked in secret to sign a contract before any public records were released. Jack filed a formal complaint and petition requesting the Florida Attorney General intervene and stop the sale as it appears to be done illegally, and to investigate Pinellas County officials for possible violation of the Florida Sunshine Laws.

It would have been much easier if we had the money to pay a lawyer to do all of this investigating and paperwork, but we did not, so Jack did it with the help of others. The President of D & D is a well-known lawyer and has threatened to sue Jack. Fortunately, it was overheard by several witnesses.

As of this writing (end of February) we just found out that the sale contract has been finalized and Pinellas County is in possession of the property. That happened sooner than we expected and we have not heard from the Florida Attorney General. At this point it is possible, but not likely, that the transaction can be reversed by the Florida Attorney General. We do not know what the final outcome will be, but we do know our God and He has ultimate control. Please pray that this wonderful ministry of furnishing housing for missionaries on furlough will be saved and the Board of Directors will be replaced with people who will work hard to maintain the mission and its charitable purpose.

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Otherwise, we and hundreds of other missionary families will be homeless when we return to the States.

In the midst of all of this, on January 4th Ann had an episode with her vision, numbness in her face and arms and dizziness. We made an emergency visit to our eye doctor within a couple of hours and he sent us to the hospital emergency room stating we should not even return home for anything. The ER did tests and an MRI on Ann's brain and found no evidence of stroke or aneurysm, Praise the Lord! The final diagnosis was a migraine headache, probably brought on by all of the stress we were under at the time. She has had a few more since then, but being back in Spain has been much less stressful for her.

On February 5, Jack's only brother, Joe, was cutting trees and had an accident. He was flown by helicopter from Waycross, GA to Jacksonville, FL where they determined he had three cracked ribs, a cracked scapula, a severely broken clavicle and a partially collapsed lung. Praise God his lung is functioning and after a week in the hospital he has been sent back to Waycross to have his injuries treated.

Thank you to those who pray for us and our families even if you don't know what specifically you are praying for. Your prayers sustain us.

We did restart our ministries when we returned but have not had the time to start anything new. The meetings for a public Bible study at a local hotel are continuing and Ann's bread ministry is reaching new people. There are more people begging on the streets now than when we left in November. Also, the prayer meeting in our home continues on Wednesdays followed by an evangelistic outreach in the city-center.

It was very good to spend the holidays with our families, but it was very disappointing for us to not be able to visit so many of our friends and supporters while in the States. God had another purpose for us to be there. This is the first holiday season we had spent with our families in nine years, but there was a sense of urgency to be there in November. We arrived the same day that the sale and closing of D & D Missionary Homes was announced. We both sensed that God had us there for such a time to expose what had happened and to do what could be done to stop it.

We know many of you are dealing with serious health issues and other problems. Be assured you are remembered in our prayers as are all of you who pray for us and support us in our work for the Lord. Thank you so much.

Jack & Ann