



Thanks for your prayers for all our travels in the fall. Everything went very smoothly. We especially enjoyed our time in Germany with the European Leadership team and field leaders and with our son Mark. We stayed at the dorm with him and he was sick for part of our visit but it was great that Mom was there to take care of him.

Please continue to pray that Niki's residency will be renewed. This continues to cause us stress, partly because it is difficult to make plans for the summer until we know what the government decides.

THIS PAST FRIDAY

Over the years we have often been asked what a typical day looks like for us. I have to insist that while last Friday was not typical, it was a unique day in that I spent some time ministering in all the areas that I love and which are priorities for me: family, evangelism, counseling and loving and serving other missionaries.

8:15 am The girls and I were out the door to head to school. I was going along to help with a prayer breakfast that the middle schoolers were having. I really enjoy helping to facilitate this type of activity for all the kids but especially for Angel.

11:30 am My friend and neighbor, B, agreed to my offer for coffee and we spent a couple of hours talking about a very difficult situation she is in right now. If you remember, I gave B a Bible this past summer. I was able to share with her again about how we can know God personally and how important the Bible is in that process. She shared with me that her teenage son is reading the Bible I gave her and she left with a new resolve to read for herself and to interact with her son about what he is reading.

2:30 pm A friend came for lunch who is really struggling in her marriage. Years ago Ed and I met with this couple on several occasions but they were not ready to make changes, but in the past months the situation has deteriorated and they are ready to meet regularly with us for marriage help.

7:00 pm We hosted a dinner for a new missionary that has just arrived in Spain. Welcome Theresa! We were able to introduce her to three other teammates from Spain and we had a fun evening together.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF PARENTS



The parenting classes ended the first week of December and I was able to teach the second to last session on the importance of boundaries with kids. Our team received the following comments:

“You are the most caring group of people I have ever met!”

When one of the participants was asked if she was going to attend the last meeting, she replied “I wouldn’t miss it for the world!”

Sadly one of the moms confessed to us one day, “Everything is fine if I have a place to come and

learn about how to be a mom. But what will I do when we aren’t meeting anymore!”

This Friday we begin phase II with these moms which is a monthly meeting. During our first meeting, we will be talking about self-esteem and exploring where we get our self-esteem from and why. Please pray that we can challenge these moms to find their self-esteem in the One who loves them unconditionally.

COMING UP

Ed will be traveling to Bristol the last week of January. Pray for a great time of study and with his advisor.



From February 8-12, Ed will be teaching a group of men from Romania. They are in training to become pastors and missionaries and as part of their formation, they will come to Spain for about 2 months in order to get cross-cultural experience and training. While they are here, they take classes for about six hours a day on different topics which are crucial to the ministry. Ed will be teaching them in the area of discipleship and mentoring.

Our annual pre-marital seminar happens on February 27-28. We will be doing a couple of the talks and then meeting with all the couples individually at a later date in order to do the Myers-Briggs test with them.

Ed continues to teach an in-depth course on Isaiah to a group of six lay leaders from different churches. He will be teaching 1 Samuel in February at our church and trying to finish writing an online course on Isaiah.

Sheryl continues to meet regularly with several couples and individuals for counseling.

Please pray for energy and wisdom for everything we have coming up in the next couple of months. WE APPRECIATE YOU!!