

**An amazing fulfillment;
God places missionary in strategic ministry**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
LAM News Service

Puerto Real, Spain (LAMNS)—For Kristen Clyde, God’s hand in her placement on the mission field is totally evident.

“I felt that I wanted to serve with a couple that had experience and had done ministry before,” she says. “I wanted a ministry with a focus on youth evangelism in a town with a university. And, I wanted a ministry that involved prayer and spiritual warfare.”

Today, Kristen is working in this community near the port city of Cadiz with an experienced pastor and his wife from Puerto Rico, reaching out to youth near a large regional university, and is involved in daily prayer in a region that she feels is at the heart of the struggle for the soul of Spain.

“All of the things worked out amazingly,” she remembers. “They want to plant a church here like their church (back in Puerto Rico), and I want to plant a church like their church.

Kristen, who is a missionary with the Latin America Mission, can trace her call to mission service back to when she was eight years old. “I knew that the Lord was calling me to missions, that is why I studied at John Brown University,” she explains. “I knew I was going to do church planting, that’s why I studied evangelism.”

Kristen was born in San Diego, California, and lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Wilmore, Kentucky, and Butler, Carthage and Springfield, Missouri as her father served as the pastor of United Methodist churches in those towns.

Now, in this corner of Spain, Kristen is putting her training to work as she meets and presents the gospel to her neighbors, counsels with youth and prepares a regular radio program in English to meet the needs of U.S. service personnel at a nearby military base.

“We have a service every Tuesday night in someone’s home,” Kristen says. “On Monday we have a watch service—praise, worship and prayer—as an intensive preparation against spiritual warfare. Thursday evenings we have a Bible study for our team and on Friday we do evangelism.”

The team’s evangelistic outreach involves a variety of activities from distributing tracts in the market to holding an impromptu service in the town plaza that lasts until 2 a.m. “That service



attracted a lot of young people,” Kristen remembers. “Many of them wanted to know a little more about Jesus. Three youth received Jesus as their savior and have started to visit our church.”

The team has obtained nearly 1,500 videos of the Jesus film to distribute to every home in Puerto Real.

In addition to the official activities involved in planting a church, Kristen reported that she is also reaching out to other residents of her sea-front apartment building. “When I moved here, I started praying for every neighbor in this part of the building,” she explains. “Now I have seven neighbors who come to visit and a girl I met on the bus also comes to visit the church service. I want to bring at least one new person to each service.”

Kristen’s efforts are slowly bringing results. “Here in Spain, things don’t happen quite as quickly as they do in Central America or the United States,” she explains. “I can’t tell you how many people I’ve witnessed to or invited to church that haven’t come. They listen to me and they listen about God, but when it comes to attending the service, they are not very open to coming.”

But, she is not giving up. “I feel patient and blessed that God has brought people to every church service we have had.”

Members of Kristen’s team find their ministry in Spain challenging. “I met a pastor who had only six members after 15 years,” explains Nandy Perez, the Puerto Rican pastor, who along with his wife Rowena, leads the church planting team. “But, they are open and will talk with you,” he affirms.

Nandy says that among Spain’s over 40 million population, only 88,000 are evangelical Christians. But, he says, the opportunities for ministry are growing. “Seventy million tourists visit Spain every year, among them a million and a half Muslims who cross the Gibraltar states to visit their families. That is a good opportunity to evangelize people.”

Despite hardships, the team is not discouraged. “This is the time for Spain,” Kristen says. “The Lord is going to change things. He is already changing the spiritual realm and starting to break down barriers.

Latin America Mission works in partnership with churches and Christian agencies throughout Latin America and supports missionaries and projects in many Latin countries as well as in Spain. LAM is seeking to place new missionaries throughout the region. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 1-800-275-8410. The mission’s web site may be found at <http://www.lam.org>. LAM’s Canadian office is at 3075 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5M6.

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