

SPAIN

EN VIVO

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EN VIVO: THE RETURN!

It's hard to believe that En Vivo is already in its 5th year of ministry ... as we look back on the past few years, we can see just how much God has done and continues to do in Salamanca. Once again we thank Him for the amazing opportunity to be a part of His great work. As the semester begins, we are really excited about continuing in our goal of getting to know our students on a more intimate level through small group Bible studies called "Grupitos" and our leadership group, The "Núcleo." As always, we also have our three main weekly events tailored to bring people into the ministry and to get them involved and learn more about Jesus.

Every Tuesday we have what we call "Tertulia," or devotional lunch, where university students come to get a home-cooked meal, a short 10-minute devotion based on the Bible, and a weekly take-home challenge to apply the week's lesson in their own lives. This semester we will have 11 Tertulias, and to help break up the semester we have divided the talks into three series called "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "Good Habits/Bad Habits," and "Fortune Cookies."

When we sit down to write a Tertulia talk, we do so with the idea of sharing One Idea, One Story, and One Verse – we want to keep our talks simple and accessible to anyone who happens to walk in off the street that day. Examples of what you might learn at Tertulia this semester are: everyone has a story worth telling (I Know What You Did Last Summer); it's worth it to obey God even when we don't understand His plans (Good Habits/Bad Habits); and learning wisdom from the book of Proverbs (Fortune Cookies).

On Wednesday evenings we brew coffee, make tea, and set up the campus house like a café for our "Café Inglés" event. Our exchange students are in charge of this event, where Spanish students are invited to come to the En Vivo house to practice English.

This semester we've decided to spice things up by watching an episode of "The Office" during Café Inglés – and despite the exceedingly awkward sense of humor, it seems to be a big hit. Our exchange students make "table toppers" with vocabulary words from the episodes, games, riddles, etc., in English to help with conversation throughout the night and to explain American slang, which is really what people seem to be most interested



in. To round out the night, and make it a truly American experience, we all head to Burger King for dinner afterward. (For more info about exchange students check out the More New Faces section of this newsletter.)

Thursday evenings are, as always, our main event. This semester we are continuing the two-week rotation schedule between Bible study and the El Núcleo leadership group. Bible study happens at 9 p.m. and includes finger foods, a skit, live music, 20-minute talk about a lesson from the Bible, a hilarious announcement video, and delicious desserts to end the night. Unlike past years where we have mainly focused on the Gospels, this semester our Bible study



series, called "Letters," is focused on Paul's letters in the New Testament and what they have to teach us about day-to-day life as Christians. We'll use examples like the funny notes you would pass during class in high school, to love letters, to those angry letters you write but never send, and even including the newsletter that you are reading right now to keep you up-to-date on what is going on in Salamanca. We are having a lot of fun with this series, and it has given us the chance to share with our students new aspects of the early church we had not been able to do before.

On the Thursday nights when we do not have Bible study, our leadership group, El Nucleo, meets (for more information check out the leadership and small groups section of this newsletter), followed by a special event designed to bring people together in fellowship at the campus house and keep them involved on a weekly basis. We kicked the year off with the "Super Event" so that newcomers and old-timers could come see the newly repainted house, get back in touch with us, and learn more about what En Vivo is all about as a campus ministry in Salamanca. Other special events this semester have been "Dinner and a Movie," where we made a bunch of homemade pizzas and watched "Batman: The Dark Knight"; a "Thriller Night" where we learned the steps to Michael Jackson's Thriller video; and "Esclavitud XXI" where a special guest came to talk to us about the problem of human trafficking and women getting sold into prostitution. We will also

have an International Pot-Luck Dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving, and a Christmas Banquet to finish up the semester and 2009. We look forward to telling you about those events in our next newsletter!

NEW FACES AT EN VIVO

A new school year always means that there are some new faces around the En Vivo house. This has been a year full of transitions for our team! Whitney Turner finished her commitment with CMF, and is now studying at Emmanuel School of Religion. Chris Beirne is also at Emmanuel this fall on furlough, but will return to us in January. While we miss these guys a lot, we are very excited to re-introduce you to some familiar faces as two of our old interns have come back to Salamanca as team members.

Hernán De la Cruz. From Colombia with love! Hernán arrived in Salamanca 5 years ago to get a master's from the University of Salamanca and became involved with En Vivo while he was still a student. Hernán was one of the first students we got to know in Salamanca and helped us to build this ministry from the ground up. He says that it was through his involvement with En Vivo that he grew in his relationship with God and decided to give his life to Christ. In 2006-2007, Hernán served as part of our first intern team at En Vivo, and after two years of waiting and preparing, he's back to join our team! Hernán is our first team member who is a native Spanish speaker, an expert talk giver, a master encourager, and has the best laugh you have ever heard.

Joan Cramer. You might be asking yourselves, isn't this the girl who was an intern at En Vivo last year? Well, yes, she is! Joan was an intern with us in 2008-2009 and decided that she wanted to come back for more this year. Joan has been involved with En Vivo for a long time. In 2006-2007, this random girl from Oregon came to Spain to study at the University of Salamanca and wound up at En Vivo after some of our Spanish students invited her. She became deeply involved with En Vivo as a student, even though she wasn't technically an En Vivo exchange student. One year later, in September 2008, she came back to Salamanca to work with En Vivo in an official capacity. Her passion for the students of Salamanca is so big. We're glad to say we can count on her love and charisma at En Vivo again for a second year in a row!



MORE NEW FACES!

One of the great things about En Vivo is all the different ways that people can be involved in the ministry. Not only do we have 6 full-time missionaries, but also interns who are here for one year, as well as exchange students who are here for one semester. We are excited to welcome two new interns and five exchange students to the field this fall. Our interns for this year are two very talented young women: Laura Bowers from Marietta, GA, and Kaley Hendrickson from Crawfordsville, IN.

Kaley (on the left) graduated from Indiana University in May 2009 with a degree in Spanish. While at IU, Kaley was involved in various small groups and Bible studies at Christian Student Fellowship. Kaley developed a passion for Spanish people while she was an exchange student in Toledo, Spain. Kaley is our audio/visual expert, and

keeps us connected to the outside world by managing our Facebook profile. She also helps lead two small groups and works with The Nucleo. Kaley is great at building deep relationships and helps us all stay encouraged.

Laura (on the right) graduated from Georgia Southern University in August 2009 with a degree in Spanish. While at Georgia Southern, she was involved with Christian Campus Fellowship

through their leadership development program, as well as working with freshmen. Laura was a Globalscope exchange student in Salamanca, spring 2008, and we are so glad to have her back at En Vivo. Laura is in charge of our weekly announcement video, leads two small groups, and helps with our leadership group, The Nucleo. Laura brings an infectious joy to everything she does, and students just love being with her.

Along with these great ladies, we have 5 new exchange students that we just can't help but brag about. They are one of the strongest teams that we have had in years, and have brought with them lots of energy and excitement for reaching out to students (as well as some of the things we miss from home, such as peanut butter, Lucky Charms, and Dr. Pepper).

The fall 2009 exchange students are (left to right): Jordan Quallen (Georgia Tech), Jessica Terry (University of

Florida), Rhone Uyaniker (Georgia Southern), Ansley (exchange student coordinator), James Owens (Georgia Tech), and Josh Heeren (Georgia Tech).



LEADERSHIP AND SMALL GROUPS

Throughout our time in Spain, we have come to realize just how much Spaniards value getting together in intimate groups of friends. Gathering in "small groups" leads to better discussions, deeper relationships, and, for us, a better ministry overall! El Núcleo, our student leadership group, started in 2008, and continues this year thanks to its positive effects on En Vivo as a whole and more importantly to how much our students liked it and grew close as a result of the group. We formed The Núcleo from the core group of students who had been faithfully attending our weekly events and who showed a real interest in helping at En Vivo (whether that means assisting with name-tags, cooking, cleaning, etc.). It's not all seriousness, though – we definitely have fun! A typical night with The Núcleo, which happens every other Thursday, involves an icebreaker game, a discussion of the talk from the previous week's Bible study, and splitting off into "families," or smaller groups who work together to serve at En Vivo and to love on one another. Together, these families study the Bible and, we hope, eventually become like family to one another.

To complement El Nucleo, we call these "grupitos," or groups of students who desire to go deeper into God's Word and the message from the previous week's event. These groups let us disciple students who may have just begun their journey of faith.

Throughout the year, we hope The Núcleo and the subsequent small groups will challenge students to engage their faith in a deeper way. As leaders, Joan and Hernán will challenge the



students of The Núcleo to think about what and why they believe. The whole team, as leaders of various small groups, will challenge each and every student involved to go beyond the minutiae of daily life and truly engage in a relationship with our wonderful Creator, who loves each and every one of them just as they are. This year should provide many opportunities for these sorts of challenges.

RETREAT!!!

When the air gets all nice and crisp, when I start to see pumpkins in the grocery store, when I see small children running around dressed up like firemen and Harry Potter, I only think of one thing: it must be time for the FALL RETREAT. This year we are continuing our search for the perfect retreat site, and we'll be trying out a new one in the small town of Toral de los Gusmanes. The weekend of November 20-22, we'll load up a bus full of students to make the hour and a half trip to Toral for a weekend of stupid games, community building, teaching, and worship. This fall's retreat talks will be given by none other than ... US! Our theme for the weekend is "Family," and all of our talks will be based on the parable of the Prodigal Son. To complement the talks, we will also break all the retreat attendees into "Family Groups" so they can



spend time discussing scripture and growing closer with one another in a small group environment. Please pray for wisdom and encouragement for the team and the messages that they will share during the weekend.

If any of you are from small towns like Burns, Oregon, or Calhoun, Georgia, you may have a good idea as to what the town of Toral looks like. As any small town resident knows, sometimes you have to create your own fun. So, as part of our entertainment for the weekend in the small town of Toral, we are planning to have Olympic Games! Hopefully, we can get together a good synchronized swimming team before the retreat weekend. In the event that this team doesn't come together, we will be playing more typical Olympic games such as the dizzy bat race and the classic egg toss. Please pray that we can fill the bus (about 50 students) and for the safety of our Olympic athletes!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Wisdom and boldness for the team members and interns as they reach out to new students.*
- *Good weather for the retreat!*
- *The Spanish students, that they would recognize God's presence in En Vivo.*
- *Please pray for the Spanish student leadership group, El Nucleo.*
- *Pray for all of the events at En Vivo: Café Inglés, Tertulia, Bible study, and other special events!*
- *Please pray for a unified spirit among team members, interns, exchange students, and Spanish students.*

Jesse & Sophie Bentley, Chris Beirne, Ansley Cleveland, Joan Cramer, Lauren Love, Laura Bowers, Kaley Hendrickson, and Hernán De la Cruz

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