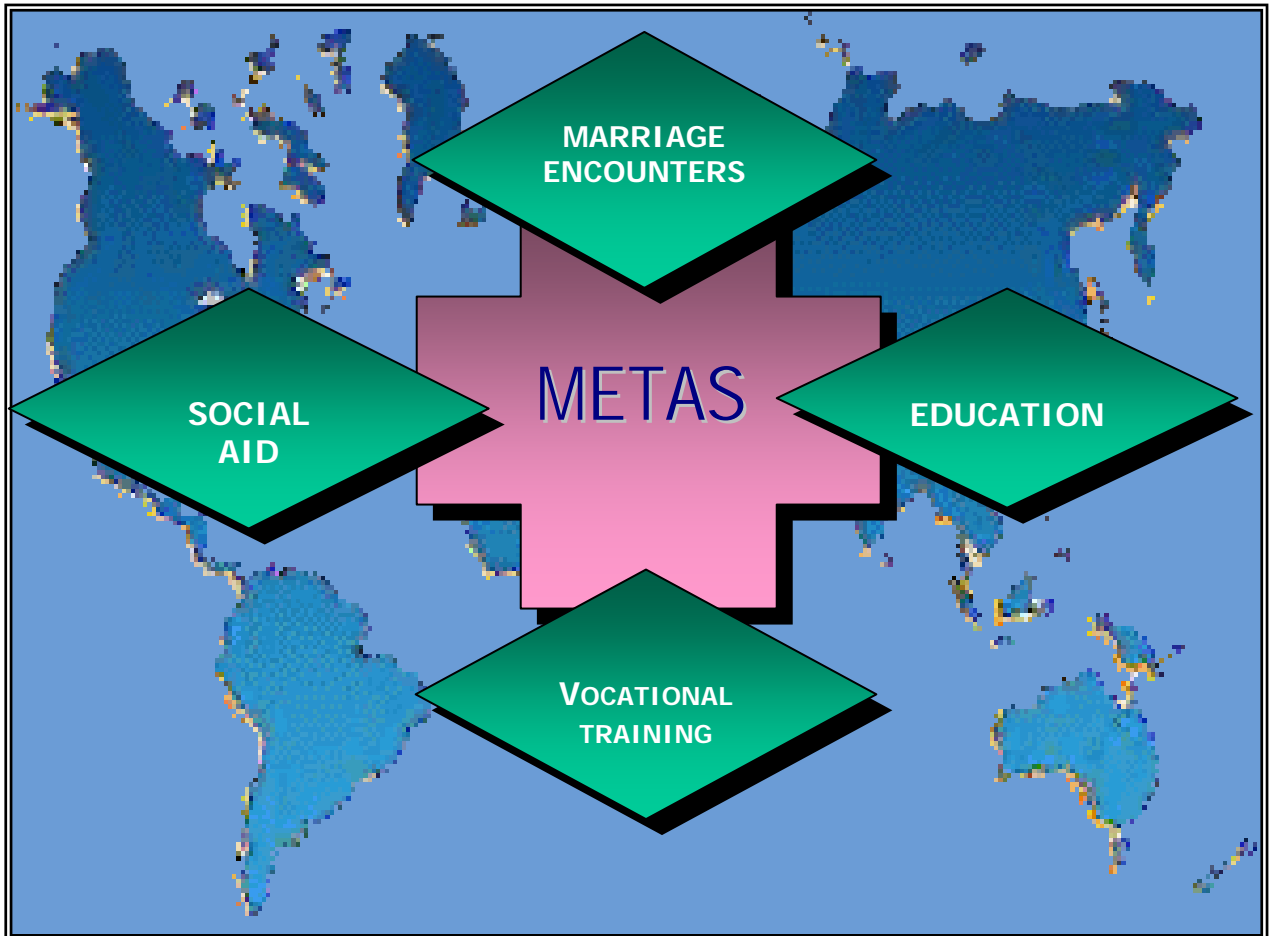


# GUADALAJARA SPAIN



A Way to Overcome Barriers

## SPAIN, THE COUNTRY AND CULTURE:

Spain, the sunny southwest corner of Western Europe, has so much diversity that it was originally called *the Spains*. Once a major global power, Spain retreated into defensive isolation for centuries until the end of Franco's dictatorship.

From a religious perspective, the people identify themselves in the following ways:

- 20 % Practicing Roman Catholic
- 57 % Non-practicing Catholic
- 0.4 % Evangelical Christians
- 22.6 % Other religions



While Spain never experienced the Reformation, it did experience the Inquisition and several centuries of Islamic rule. These continue to have an impact today. Catholic traditions, family pressure, and superstition make it very difficult for Spaniards to accept Christ. Having rejected traditional religion for the most part, they turn to the occult or simply embrace secularism.

Interestingly, Spain is one of the few European countries that fall within the 10/40 window frequently mentioned in missiological circles.

Spaniards are not satisfied with easy answers. As noted above, evangelicals comprise less than 0.4 % of the total population and are often perceived as foreign cult groups. Though evangelicals now have religious freedom, they continue to face open and subtle persecution at home and work. Generally, they are seen at best as a marginal group, at worst as a cult.

Although Catholicism has been present in Spain for centuries, this country is considered to be one of the least evangelized countries in the world.

## SEND's MINISTRY IN SPAIN:

Recently, the concept of Regional Strategic Response Teams (RSRT) was formed in Spain. These teams are regional in scope and may include more than one point of mission, depending on the needs and situation of the area. One RSRT church-planting team is located in the province of Guadalajara. They are reaching out to the community with an incarnate model ministry--METAS.

Most urban Spaniards live in apartments. Block after block of densely populated urban space creates a unique challenge for sharing the gospel. SEND missionaries have used a wide variety of methods to meet people.

These include:

- Lending libraries for videos and books in local markets
- Sports programs
- Special programs for women and couples
- Bible distribution
- Referrals to drug and alcohol programs



Spaniards live in apartments like this one

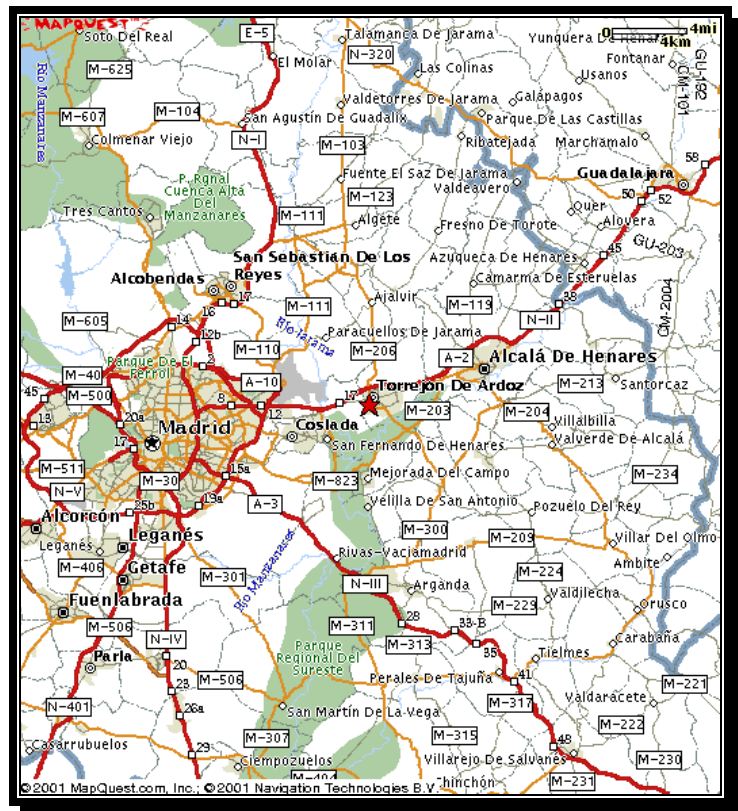
The team has been blessed by God with a diversity of gifts which are shared as they work together in outreach to the community. They meet together in prayer every week asking God's direction in their strategy.

## NEW MINISTRY IN GUADALAJARA:

The city is located thirty-five miles northeast of Madrid. Recently, the concept of Regional Strategic Response Teams (RSRT) was formed in Spain. These teams are regional in scope and may include more than one point of mission. One of those church-planting teams is located in the province of Guadalajara.

The province of Guadalajara is growing. It is composed of 20 localities with 288 municipalities (475 villages). It has 213,000 people, most of them un-reached by the gospel message.

There are three existing evangelical churches in Guadalajara with a total of 138 believers. These churches are located in the southern part of the city. Guadalajara RSRT intends to have a church plant in the northern part, an area experiencing rapid growth.



\*Red star: Guadalajara

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES:

Janet is an atheist looking for meaning in life. We invited her over for coffee once and she accepted, visiting us and giving us an opportunity to know her better. Two weeks later she returned for breakfast. While still at the table, we started to talk about God, his love and what Christ did on the cross. Right then and there, crying, she entrusted her life to Jesus.

Later we extended the invitation to her daughter, Alejandra and her son, Bryan, as well. But Bryan didn't come. So we told him that Gerardo would teach him to play the guitar and he came and started taking guitar lessons.

On Good Thursday, we planned an evangelistic fellowship. Bryan came and heard what Christ did on the cross. His eyes were opened and he said that he didn't believe before. But this time, he understood God's love and sacrifice. Although he didn't pray that day, he agreed to study the Bible with Gerardo before his guitar lesson.

Last April, we had Pilar and her son over to get to know them better. She shared some of her struggles and we listened and in turn shared God's goodness in our lives. That was the start of a good friendship. She continues to come over as her schedule permits.



Evangelistic fellowship on Good Thursday

Janet and Bryan



## MINISTRY PLAN:



To reach out to the community, the team uses an incarnate model ministry is an established not-for-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called **Asociacion METAS** their mission is to provide various services to the community. Which will help the SEND team develop meaningful contacts that will present opportunities for evangelism.

The letters in the word **METAS** will help people understand the kind of services provided by the organization as follows:

**M** – The “M” stands for marriage. The team plans to conduct seminars and counseling for the family.

**E** – The “E” represents education. A variety of educational components are currently being planned. Missionaries will provide classes in English, tutoring, guitar and sports clinics

**T** – “T” stands for work— *trabajo* in Spanish. Spain has a high unemployment rate ranging from 15-20%. METAS services will include job counseling, resume writing and computer skill upgrades.

**AS** – The “A” and “S” are combined in Spanish forming *Asistencia Social* or social assistance. METAS will have a food and clothing distribution point for local people. Although METAS does not see itself as providing rehab services for drug and alcohol abusers, it will assist people in making contact with those who do.

Missionaries are considered foreign Protestants at best and a cult at worst. Credibility is a major barrier to effective ministry in Spain. The team sees METAS as way to overcome barriers.

## **BUDGET:**

1. Purchase of a commercial storefront	300,000
2. Improvement –tiles, cabinets, kitchen, toilet	50,000
3. Telephone, internet installations, etc...	1,200
4. Permits, appraisals, licenses	2,000
5. Equipments-tape recorders, instruments, etc...	<u>5,000</u>

**TOTAL COST** **358,200 euros**

**TOTAL COST:** \$500,000 (Exchange rate: \$1.40 USD per Euro)

**AVAILABLE: \$140,000**

**NEEDED: \$360,000**

Fund raising has begun toward the purchase of an acceptable building, and \$140,000 has been received to date. This leaves about \$360,000 to complete the project.

For more information, please contact us as indicated below. Contribution checks can be made out to SEND International and indicate that the funds are intended for the [METAS-Guadalajara](#) in Spain.

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As contributions are tax-deductible, they are sought with the understanding that SEND International has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.