



ABBOTT NEWS BRIEFS

December 2010

SEMINARY

Thesis Defense



Mireia and professors
(Rainer Sörgel, Sergio
Rosell, Mireia Vidal,
Mark Abbott)

We are always proud of our students. Mireia Vidal successfully defended her thesis: *La Nueva Profecía: Una teología en lengua maternal (The New Prophecy: A Theology in Maternal Language)*. The Montanist movement began in the late 2nd century and was known for its prophetic fire as well as its female prophets. Mireia examined how the Montanists used Paul to defend their charismatic prophecy from what was fast becoming the orthodox, institutional establishment. She is now pursuing further studies at the Pontifical University in Comillas near Madrid and assisting with the lay training program, the *Taller Teológico*.

Taller Breve: Reading Luke like a Story



On November 20th Mark led a *Taller Breve*. These are brief, 3-4 hour workshops that are part of our larger lay training program. Mark identified seven elements of narrative that we can apply to the Gospels.

Each biblical genre needs to be treated according to the rules of that genre.

The group had fun analyzing together two passages using this method. Mark was able to offer the workshop a second time in Miajadas, a small town in the West of Spain (Extremadura).

Publications

Two professors have published books recently, spinoffs from their doctoral dissertations. Sergio Rosell published *La nueva identidad de los cristianos* (Sígueme, 2010) and *Christ Identity: A Social-scientific Reading of Philippians 2.5-11* (Vandehoeck & Ruprecht, 2010). Sergio obtained his doctorate in New Testament from the University of South Africa in Pretoria.

Jonathan Rowe published his doctoral thesis: *Michal's Moral Dilemma: A Literary, Anthropological and Ethical Interpretation* (T&T Clark, 2010). He obtained his doctorate in Old Testament ethics at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

FAMILY



Chris and Timo in the Coliseum in Rome.

Chris and his friend Timo did an Interrail trip across Europe in August. Rome was their first stop. Their favorite city was Prague in the Czech Republic.

Chris has applied to Berklee College of Music in Boston and plans on moving to Boston in late June after graduation. Time to spread his wings and sing his song!

As Chris is the last to leave the nest, Diane and Mark will now be “home alone”.

Youth Trip to Stockholm

The Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East sponsors a youth conference each Fall. This year it was held in Stockholm, Sweden, and the Community Church of Madrid sent a group. Chris went as a youth and Mark as an adult (almost) sponsor. These events are especially important for third culture youth being raised in environments that are quite hostile to Christian faith.



Community Church youth in front of the Immanuel Church in Stockholm, Sweden.

Diane

Diane continues as administrative support at the Seminary; however, this year she has added more music to her life. She teaches voice in the after school music program at the American School of Madrid. This has opened opportunities to accompany during student recitals and school music programs. Mark is the unofficial page turner.

Holiday Blessings!

Diane and I wish you all a blessed holiday season with a real sense of the presence of Jesus!

Thank you all for your faithful support as well as your prayers.

Your Partners in the Gospel,

Mark & Diane

GBGM Missionary Codes:

Diane: 10070-Z Mark: 10069-Z