



ABBOTT NEWS BRIEFS

October 2009

La Chimenea Inauguration

Old things can be rededicated to new purposes. *La Chimenea* is one of the most ancient buildings in the town of El Escorial, and it sits on our seminary campus. It dates back at least to the 1500s.

After some remodeling and a new roof we rededicated *La Chimenea* to new purposes. It now serves as our chapel. We hold morning prayers with professors, staff and students Monday through Friday, and chapel services on Wednesdays.



La Chimenea only holds 30 people, so we had to put chairs outside.



Pedro Zamora being honored for 16 years as Seminary director. On the right is the new director, Jonathan Rowe.

The special service also served to recognize Pedro Zamora's 16 years as Director of the SEUT. He is currently on sabbatical and will be returning in another capacity. Pedro is largely responsible for Mark & Diane's presence at the seminary!

Scholarship Endowment

The Seminary (SEUT) has established a scholarship endowment fund with the UM Higher Education Foundation. Thanks to generosity from churches this summer we now have over \$7,000 in the fund, but we still need a minimum of \$20,000 in capital before we can disburse any proceeds. Would you help? If so visit our blog:

<http://markabbott007.wordpress.com/donations/>

European Methodist Council

For the second year the Spanish Evangelical Church has invited Mark to represent them on the European Methodist Council, which met in Manchester, England September 9-12. Church leaders from the broader Methodist family represented people from Vladivostok, Russia in the Far East to Ireland in the West.

We talked about the impact of the worldwide economic crisis. Spain actually has the highest unemployment rate of them all, 18.5% and rising! This has slowed the influx of immigrants; however, those who are already here are adding their witness to the churches.

November 9, 2009 will be the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Things have changed faster than we realize. At the EMC meeting I sat between the Director of the UM seminary in Moscow and the head of mission of the Polish UMC. My supervisor from the GBGM was present, and he is Estonian. None of these people could have been doing what they are doing 20 years ago! These marvelous developments are signs of God's kingdom in the present, and we give thanks.



Sergei Nikolaev, head of Moscow UM Seminary in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, UK



Worshipping in Whaley Bridge, UK. This is a united church with Baptist, Methodist and Reformed together.

Family Wedding



We are so proud that our niece, Alison Bird, married Adilson Castelo Branco Domingos, on August 15 in Sintra, Portugal. Alison works for the US AID program in the US Embassy in Luanda, Angola.

Thanks for your continued prayers!

Your Partners in the Gospel,
Mark & Diane

GBGM Missionary Codes:

Diane: 10070-Z Mark: 10069-Z