

# CONNECT

Spring 2018



**REID SAUNDERS**  
ASSOCIATION

*Taking the message of the cross to the ends of the earth... All for Jesus*

Reid Saunders openly proclaimed the Gospel in Bethlehem to an audience of Palestinians. This has been his lifelong dream and hopefully the first of many more outreach events in the Holy Land.

# CONNECT

## EVANGELISM

*2 Timothy 4:5*

Target unreached people groups around the world

Engage the culture without changing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Demonstrate God's care and compassion by providing humanitarian aid for those in need

Invite people into a relationship with Christ

## BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

*Ephesians 4:12*

Promote unity and cooperation among the local Bible-believing churches

Train and equip teams of believers for the work of evangelism

Partner with local churches to make disciples of new believers

Saturate communities through city-wide festivals



REID SAUNDERS  
ASSOCIATION

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect Spring Benefit .....	April 19, 2018
Armenia/Georgia/Serbia trip .....	May 18-30, 2018
Brazil Team Trip .....	August 9-21, 2018
Bolivia Team Trip .....	September 7-18, 2018
Egypt Trip .....	November 12-19, 2018
Dominican Republic Team Trip .....	January 26 – February 5, 2019
Puerto Rico Team Trip .....	March 22 – April 5, 2019



Our mission at Reid Saunders Association is to take the message of the cross to the ends of the earth... All for Jesus! It's about connecting people with Jesus. For those who have supported this ministry for awhile, you may notice something new about our Annual Dessert Benefit this year... We are calling it RSA Spring Connect Benefit.

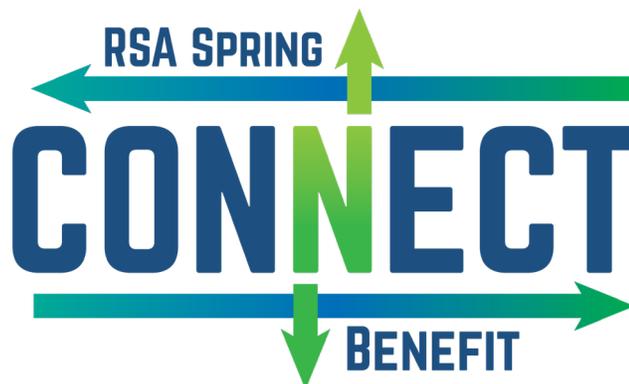
The first reason for the change is that we are adding a luncheon! We want to accommodate as many people as possible with various schedules. Connecting with more people will increase our ability to share the Gospel around the world. Many have already responded favorably!

The second reason is it's more in line with who we are and what we do. We desire to be intentional in connecting with

all people; with Christ followers, with those exploring faith, and with those who have yet to hear the message. While both the luncheon and the dessert are a fund raising benefit for RSA, this year the luncheon will have an evangelistic approach. It's a great opportunity to invite your coworkers, neighbors, friends and family to hear the message of the cross!

The dessert will continue to be the traditional evening event you know and expect. There is still space available. Please contact Diane (diane@reidsaunders.org) if you want to attend or host a table for the luncheon or the dessert.

Enclosed is an invitation that you can pass along to others that may not have heard about the Connect Benefit.



# Text messages from Ruth in Portugal and Spain... follow along and you'll see how God worked

## March 1, Thursday 1:58 pm

I'm finally in my hotel room in Lisbon! Reid's flight delayed 6 hours. Pray that he makes the 4 pm flight from Madrid.

## 3:17 pm

Reid will get to Lisbon at 11 tonight. Reid is delighted there is a Starbucks in Madrid airport!

## 6:09 pm

In the beginning there were hardly any pastors who wanted to meet with us. But things have changed a bit... a minute ago I learned that the board of the Evangelical Churches in Lisbon want to meet with us tomorrow at 2 pm! We thank God for each one of you. Keep on praying!

## March 2, Friday 9:15 am

We rested in the morning. Took the metro to the city square in the afternoon to pray for the spiritual needs of the people and God's plans for reaching this city and country.

## 1:15 pm

We met with Pastor Paulo Branco who plants churches in unreached areas in Portugal, along the border with Spain. He indicated that our Affinity Events with a meal is an effective method for evangelism in these areas.



## 6:20 pm

At 2:00 pm we met with 3 members of the board of directors for the Evangelical Churches Alliance of Lisbon. Reid presented the vision of doing evangelistic events along side their ministry. The directors were very encouraging, and positive about partnering with us for an outreach. They will present this to the rest of their board at their next meeting and connect with us in two weeks.



After a late winter snow storm, the weather has been pleasantly dry, cloudy in the morning and sunny in the afternoon. We've been able to do everything we've planned and even more! We've felt your prayers! We've thank God for withholding the rain and for His daily provision.

Since Pastor Pedro couldn't come from Spain to pick us up, we are taking the bus from Lisbon to

Jerez. We plan to travel all night in a large bus.

## March 3, Saturday 8:25 am

After traveling all night, with a loooooong lay-over in Seville, we're safe and sound in Jerez, Spain! Thank God Pastor Antonio picked us up from the bus station and brought us to the hotel. We're going to rest. All is well with our souls! Yes! We desperately need lots of sleep!

## 8:35 pm

We had a dinner meeting with Pedro and Martin, pastors of the church that Reid will be speaking at Sunday night. We had a real good time of planning the rest of our time here in Spain and discussed the vision for an upcoming festival.

Tomorrow at 5 pm, we are adding to our schedules a visit to the possible venues for the future festival and other outreach events here in Jerez. Exhausted! We are going to rest now.

## Sunday, March 4, 11:05 am

We are at a church service and Reid just spoke, but he is not feeling well. There are 70 people in the Puerta del Cielo church today. I will interpret for Reid. Today is the National Day of Christians in Prison, where they focus on the church within the prisons.

Several men who have been in prison and just released gave their testimonies of how they received Christ while in prison. I connected with the prison ministry coordinator of the church and he said that when we come for our outreach, to let him know so we can take a team to visit the inmates. Yes, the Lord is preparing the way!



Reid is resting now. We'll be picked up at 5 pm to visit another one of the festival venues. Then Reid preaches at Pedro's church at 7 pm.

## 9:16 pm

Praise the Lord, this couple from Columbia, who came to Spain as refugees received Christ at tonight's service!



Reid (pictured below) is praying for a man who recently entered Spain as a refugee from

# ALL FOR JESUS

Armenia. While in Spain, he came to know Jesus at Pedro's church. Since he gave his life to the Lord, he has been praying for the opportunity to go back to his home country to tell his family and friends about Jesus (about 100 people he knows). But this man has not had the money to go back. His brother is a teacher at a university in Ararat, Armenia.



I had Reid and Brett's Armenia trip itinerary on my cell phone and was able to tell them exactly where they going to be sharing about Jesus in May. We were amazed because the locations is only 15 minutes from where this refugee's family lives. Pedro said it was a Divine appointment! In picture, Reid, Pastors Pedro Espada and Manuel Martin praying for Yura from Armenia and his family - with me interpreting.

## March 5, Monday 8:06 am

It's a new day here in Spain. Please pray for Reid. The three nights without sleep before he got here, the jet lag and change of environment, food, plus the usage of his energy in preparing for preaching and networking have really made him feel weak and sick.

## 4:30 pm

Reid with Pastor Antonio, President of the Evangelical Churches Alliance in Jerez. The photo was taken at one of the possible venues for the festival.



There are only 12 evangelical churches in Jerez and they are small. Jerez population is 220,000 and of those about 6,000 attend church and only 1,200 or less than 1% are born again Christians. The pastors here said that is common in most of Europe. The work to be done is great, almost overwhelming!

*continued page 5*

# BOLIVIA



## TEAM TRIP September 7-18, 2018

One of the fastest growing cities in South America, Santa Cruz de la Sierra has become Bolivia's largest metropolitan community. Spurred by vibrant business interests in agriculture, oil, gas, ranching, mining and tourism, the population has more than doubled in the last 10 years to more than 2.4 million and has become the preferred destination for many migrants.

In an effort to reach these largely unreached indigenous groups scattered around Santa Cruz, RSA plans to minister directly to them through **medical clinics, clothing distribution and smaller festivals** held near their urban or rural mountain villages. Partnering with local churches, we hope to reach out to these migrant populations with the Good News of Jesus Christ and also overcome



Often these immigrants are mistreated, abused and remain outcast from modern society due to illiteracy, language, and lack of job skills. Some have adopted a transient lifestyle on the streets, begging for food and money. Indigenous ethnic groups, from the tropical forest regions of the upper Amazon, the Andes Mountain region, and the southeastern dry Chaco region are drawn to the city for employment and economic opportunities in record numbers.

the barriers that keep these people from integrating into modern Bolivian society. Our plan is to establish a lasting connection between the local Christian churches and the growing migrant communities. We also plan to work with staff members of an international organization that has set up homes for at-risk children. Their purpose and goal is to stop the exploitation of these migrant children by the underground commercial sex trafficking organizations. By providing housing, ed-

ucation, community support, and teaching job skills, they will prevent many young girls from entering into a destructive life of prostitution, drug abuse, and slavery.

With it's unique demographic, growing population, and source of economic opportunity, the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra is a vital stepping stone in reaching much of this region with the hope of the Gospel. Helping end the sex slavery



Often mistreated by modern culture, indigenous groups have migrated for economic reasons to Santa Cruz de la Sierra in record numbers. Many have faced abuse and exploitation by the sex trafficking organizations. One of our contacts, Rick Methvin (lower right) is someone attempting to make a positive difference in the lives of children.

trade in this area will also change future generations in Bolivia for years to come.

**RSA is hoping to take a team of 40 members to Bolivia**, September 7-18, 2018. The outreach team will include trained medical personnel, BMX bike riders, with opportunities for drama, music, sharing your personal testimony, prayer ministry, language translation, photography, media and supporting volunteers. We ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of this team. The



total cost for the trip is approximately \$2,000 plus airfare. Please contact Ruth Daniels at [ruth@reidsaunders.org](mailto:ruth@reidsaunders.org) or call 503-581-7394 for additional details, and sign up.

This is a link to more information about indigenous people groups and culture in Bolivia. <http://www.boliviabella.com/bolivia-cultures.html>



photos used by permission: Rick Methvin, Hali Brooks

*Spain and Portugal continued*

Pedro told us that six months ago, we couldn't have gathered all the pastors, because there was great strife among them. **But everything is in God's timing.**

At 5:30 the pastors had a prayer time and at 7:00 Reid trained them on evangelism and I presented the vision for a festival with RSA. We had a long time for questions and answers and finally we went to the restaurant for dinner. Pedro, Reid and I left the place at midnight and the pastors and their wives were still there talking when we left.



The pastors were very encouraged and will meet again to decide if they want us to come and join their efforts.

**March 5, Tuesday 7:38 am**

Last night I met with a pastor and his wife who have been planting churches in Spain for 14 years. He is from Guatemala and she is from Honduras. They are good friends with my Mom, and that's how I got connected with them. For the first 9 years they worked in Andalucía close to the coast and when they finished their work there, they had established a church with 71 members. Then, because of the lack of churches in the middle and north of Spain, they were assigned to work in Illescas near Toledo just southwest of Madrid. They have been there for almost 5 years and the work has been tough. They've done tons of affinity events and they have only 17 people that congregate regularly. These people are still being disciplined. The town they live in has 30,000 people and there are only 2 tiny churches. Evangelicals are rejected there.

The only thing that seems to be working to get connected to unbelievers is through teaching English to children and youth. So the missionaries are looking at inviting a team of Americans to teach English for a week at public schools (where you can't share the Gospel), but in the afternoons invite the children and youth to evangelistic events. Please be praying for Lazaro and Loida Pascual as they continue serving the Lord in a very hard place.

We talked until midnight last night and they dropped me off at the hotel around 1am. God is on the move! We just need to follow His footprints.

**Ruth Daniels**, International Events and Trip Coordinator

# Is God prompting you to go?

In 2017, we celebrated Reid Saunders Association's 15th year in ministry! We want to recognize and publicly thank **Bev Schmidgall** again for her many years of service as a member of our medical team, volunteer and faithful friend of the ministry.

Bev has served with RSA since June 2005 when her nephew, Brandon, and his wife, Stacy, invited her to join them on a medical mission trip to Uganda. Bev has been an ER nurse for 48 years, and they knew her skills would be invaluable.

"At first I said no – I don't like to fly, get dirty, eat strange food, or use outhouses!" Bev had her doubts but knew God was urging her to say "yes," so she agreed. Since then, **she's been on 17 trips with RSA!**

One of her best memories happened in Sri Lanka. She was part of a team of eight volunteers expecting to do medical work, but at the last minute they ended up gaining access to a local schools. Bev made an emergency trip to the store for



supplies, and made a Wordless Book to share the Gospel with the kids. It went so well that Brett asked her to do the same thing... from a stage in front of thousands of kids! She isn't ready to trade places with Reid, but she did learn that children are definitely her favorite audience to interact with.

When she first began participating Bev never imagined she'd share the message of God's love from a stage, but since then she's been invited to speak to many groups in the U.S. about evangelism. Being available when the opportunity arose taught her that she could do much more than she ever thought possible. Spiritual growth happened in her life as a result of obedience.

**Would you encourage others to go?** She responded with a resounding, YES! "It is a wonderful, incomparable experience. It takes so much faith!" Despite her initial fears, God has provided many opportunities for her to serve and use her medical knowledge to help thousands of people around the world.

"It doesn't matter if you have particular talents or skills, all you need is to be available. If you sense God prompting you to go, then go! He will always provide a place for service and will equip you with what is needed at the time it is needed" was Bev's advice to anyone with doubts.



Front: Brett Butcher, Kellan Sawyer, Caleb Crossman, Karen Olson. Middle: Pam Connell, Diane Dufresne, Ruth Daniels, Mike Bartlett. Back: Reid Saunders, Alyssa Friend, Paul Null. Not pictured: Kaylyn Blum

## STAFF RETREAT AND PLANNING SESSION

Each new year marks a time for RSA staff to connect at an annual retreat. In January, staff members headed to Newport for a couple days at SeaKrest, a retreat home offered by Salem First Baptist.

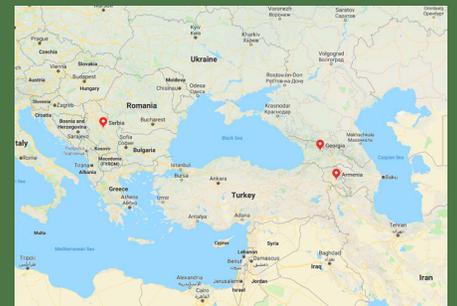
We have several new members this year and the retreat allowed opportunities for us to connect as a unified team. Evangelists, by definition, are always on the go and have very busy travel schedules. It is important to set apart a time away from the office to meet without distractions.

As the teams prepared meals, laughter rang out and we learned to work

together. We shared our personal faith stories, learned more about each other and how God uniquely prepared us for our roles at RSA. We brainstormed and discussed the upcoming ministry year. Together, we could see Jesus moving and working in our individual lives for His plan and purpose. As we spent time in prayer and in worship, we learned that Jesus is our Shepherd (Psalm 23) and will provide for our daily needs. Relaxing on the beach, we were reminded of the sovereign power of our Creator and beauty that is in Christ... It was an excellent staff retreat and we are ready for what the Lord has for us in 2018!

Reid and Brett will present the gospel at a series of 39 Affinity Events and meals throughout this oftentimes turbulent area of southern Asia and Europe during the last two weeks of May. Please keep them, their trip coordinator, and fellow evangelist Richard Hamlett in your prayers and thoughts. Trip logistics involve many hours of travel, tight scheduling, and careful planning. Pray also for receptive hearts, the follow up and discipleship efforts of local pastors and churches. On the leg home they will return to Serbia for 9 more events.

## ARMENIA GEORGIA SERBIA OUTREACH MAY 18-30





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*Reaching the Unreached*



Over 200 people in Bethlehem responded to the message in a series of breakfast meetings, children's program, concert, and dinner events. This is the first time that these types of outreach events have been allowed in this area.