



This October, during the four-day weekend marking Columbus Day, we drove to Madrid for the kids' PSATs. On the way, we visited Despeñaperros, where Andalusia leads to Castilla-La Mancha. There, the Navas Tolosa battle museum's tower commands a serene vista: beneath deep blue sky, rolling countryside climbs north to the Sierra Morena, and endless rows of olive trees march southwards. Pine woods cover the battlefield where, 805 years ago, tens of thousands of soldiers fell fighting. It was the Catholics versus the Moors, North versus South, in the Reconquista, a 780-year-long war to control this region's government, resources, people, and religion. Both sides were heavily manned by volunteers spurred on by the promise of martyrdom and paradise, led by noblemen seeking personal gain and plunder. The North won that day, giving them a foothold in Andalusia that they never relinquished. 280 years later, in 1492, their capture of Granada finally ended the war. War won, the Catholic rulers unified Spain, consolidated their wealth and power, expelled Jews and Muslims, started the Inquisition, and finally, to avoid the Caliphates which controlled the land routes to Asia, sent Christopher Columbus sailing West. How might all history have changed if this one pivotal battle had gone differently? How might all history have changed if common people seeking God and heaven had been able to read God's Word for themselves, instead of depending on the word of leaders seeking worldly power through "holy war?"



2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV): *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV): *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

This coming weekend will mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, with all its own historic repercussions. One result being: no matter your denomination, you, personally, now have access to the Bible in a language you understand.



Thank you for praying for us and for our work with Operation Transit! We continue to offer North African travelers the Bible in their own languages, praying earnestly for the people to seek and to find the truth of God's love and grace.

October started with an encouraging Day of Prayer: we prayed for each port city and heard about how the Lord has been working in each place. Throughout the past 12 months, our teams gave away: **59,456 New Testaments** (including on USBs); **68,362 Jesus Film items**; **39,211 Josh McDowell books**; and **81,108 Wonder Books for children**.

During the summer, our evangelism teams had good conversations with more than 300 North Africans, 43 of whom provided them with contact information for follow-up. In Marseille alone, the evangelism teams and the local believers they trained saw 26 people pray to receive Christ as Savior. ***Please pray that the Lord would use every item given out to make a difference in someone's life, and pray that God would greatly bless all the follow-up work.***

Allen reports that the financial audit went well, resulting in several improvements. He says the visiting auditors did a great job! He gets to work with one of them again soon, when they help with a different national audit in November. ***Please pray that they can do an excellent job with that audit in the short time they will have, and that the Lord keeps them all safe in their travels. Also please pray that our team gets more administrative help.***

We're also very happy to report that a missionary couple we have known for years is now officially joining our team here. O and V train local churches in Christian outreach to North Africans in the community. We are excited to work with them more closely! ***Please pray that more local churches would partner in the work. Pray that all our ministry would lead to vibrant church growth, as well as to individual spiritual growth!*** Thank you again for your prayers, support, and encouragement! You are making a difference in countless lives through the peaceful spread of the Gospel.

Serving Jesus with you,

Allen and Deedee

For Christmas and for 2018: Please consider coming over for ten days and joining one of our distribution teams, to offer travelers the Good News of Jesus Christ! We have some year-round outreach, but we need more help at port cities during peak travel times. Key dates are:
 For Spain:
 December 14-January 9,
 February 2-March 7,
 June 25-September 9.
 For France:
 October 20-December 20,
 January 28-February 28,
 June 4-August 12.
 We provide materials, training, and logistics as needed. If you or your church group can come, please contact us, or email ports@pobox.com for more details.