

## Unplowed Ground 5.24.04

Life here in Madrid is going well. The summer is trying to start, but lots of rain keeps jumping in first. This past weekend we celebrated the wedding of the Spanish crown prince! and we've also had lots of visitors staying with us. One of the more exciting things that has happened in the last month is the baptism of Johanna (Jo) Rohde, so we want to tell you a little of her story.

Jo grew up in Guatemala as the daughter of missionaries. Her parents went through a time of burn-out and moved back to California during her early teens. She had a hard time readjusting and felt lonely and abandoned. When she was 14, they moved here to Madrid, and she enjoyed the time with her parents, and especially her two older sisters. However, as Jo's family attempted to integrate into the missionary society, Jo felt rejected once again, but this time by Christians. Around the age of 15 she decided she no longer wanted contact with the church or Christians.

About a year and a half ago, Jo joined one of Mountainview's Alpha courses. This small group explored the basic beliefs of Christianity, and Jo was able to voice her pain and confusion, but still be loved and accepted by the group.

Jo has continued to come to Mountainview services and just hang out with the community. I've had chance to meet with her individually at different times and listen to her journeying back to Christ. A few months ago, she decided she wanted to devote her whole life to Jesus Christ and make a public proclamation of that decision through baptism.

Jo is involved in Tai Chi and Tae Kwon Do, so many of her friends are heavily into Eastern religions. As a result Jo is very aware of the spiritual world and the war that happens there. She decided at her baptism to both renounce Satan and his works, as well as proclaim her dedication to

Christ. Many of her non-Christian friends came to her baptism and heard this renunciation and her choice to follow Christ.

\* Praise God for Jo's faith and pray for her as she continues to grow in her relationship with Christ and also for her friends who heard and saw the message of God's love for us.

\* Pray for the Leader's Retreat we are having May 28-30.

\* Pray for the transition into summer, with people coming and going. Pray especially for our team, as our team leaders, Troy and Heather Cady, as spend the summer on furlough.

