

B.J. & RACHEL WHITAKER

MIRIAM & LAURA

Serving Christ in Spain



QUICK FACTS:

Mission Organization

European Christian Mission
International



Place of Ministry

Alcora, Spain

Birthplace

Missouri (B.J.)

Spain (Rachel)

On field since:

2009

Education

B.J.: B.A. in Bible & Theology
(Asbury College);

M.Div (Evangelical Theological
Seminary)

Rachel: B.A. in Social Work
(Asbury College);

MSW (Rutgers University)

Contact Info:

bj.whitaker@ecmi.org

whitakerwire.wordpress.com

EC Global Ministries

100 West Park Avenue

Myerstown, PA 17067

(800) 866-7584

www.ecglobal.org

ECMI Finance Office

P.O. Box 2177

Monument, CO 80132-2279

877-874-3264

www.ecmi-usa.org



OUR STORY:

B.J. and Rachel Whitaker's story is evidence of the creativity, humor and love of God. While Rachel grew up as a missionary kid surround by fields of tall sunflowers and olive trees in southern Spain, B.J. grew up in a blue-collar family in the thriving metropolis of Buffalo, IL (pop. 500) surround by miles and miles of corn fields. When B.J. arrived at Asbury University to prepare for the ministry, he was signed up for Spanish class and dropped it immediately, thinking, "What would I ever need Spanish for? God's called me to be a pastor, so I'm going to study Greek instead..." Later that fateful freshman year B.J. and Rachel met, became friends, and when B.J. heard how Rachel pronounced the name "Antonio Banderas," his interest in Rachel, and the Spanish language, suddenly changed forever.

After graduating from Asbury, they got married and had the sense that God was calling them overseas, though not yet. So Rachel worked as a social worker and B.J. as a youth pastor for several years (with a couple of moves and master's degrees thrown in), and in 2005 God clearly confirmed His call on their lives to share Jesus' love in Spain. They arrived on the field in 2009, and though B.J. thought he knew a little bit of Spanish, he realized just how little he knew when Rachel made him go to the pharmacy for her on just their second day in Spain.

Since 2010 the Whitakers have been collaborating with the "Good News Evangelical Church" (Església Evangèlica Bona Nova) of Onda (Castellón) to establish a visible expression of the body of Christ in the neighboring town of Alcora, an industrial town with a population of 11,000. After laying the groundwork for this during their first several years, in 2015 they opened a storefront ministry center for their community of believers to meet (Comunidad Cristiana En El Camino) and to reach out into the community through offering English classes, activities for families and children, and counseling. It's exciting to see how God has caused many of the seeds we've planted to begin to grow: individuals giving their lives to Christ, young believers discovering and using their gifts, and a small community of Christ followers growing together and reaching out in the town. In addition to the church plant, Rachel is involved in ministering to missionary kids throughout Europe, while B.J. is working to help the different churches of Castellón develop a united vision to reach the province together.

No day is typical for them: you may find them preparing a sermon or Bible study, in a discipleship or prayer meeting with believers, sharing Christ and praying for people on the street, or simply playing with their daughters in the park. Put simply, their passion is for people to grasp the deep, transformational, revolutionary power of the Gospel of Jesus and to live it.

The Whitakers have two daughters, Miriam (8 and in third grade) and Laura (6 and in first grade), who are normal girls who love princesses, ballet and playing with their friends at the park. They are very much involved in the lives and ministry of their parents, often praying for their friends and, every once in a while, sharing nuggets of wisdom and insight that God wants their parents to hear.

Spain is in Western Europe and has a population of about 46 million with about 450,000 Christian believers.

