

Site Report: Rota, Spain

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Introduction: Rota, Spain is located near the Straits of Gibraltar. It is home to the US Naval Station. The base is the headquarters for Commander, U.S. Naval activities Spain. Its purpose is to provide support the both the U.S. Sixth Fleet units in the Mediterranean and the USAF Air Mobility Command units in the region.

Need: Rota needs a Presbyterian and Reformed Church to serve the American Military community. A reformed pastor who is bilingual (English and Spanish) would be helpful. Such a man could also have an outreach to the people of Spain. The American community has a population of about 7,000 in total. This includes family members. These sailors are highly skilled and motivated professionals. Spiritually, the Rota military community is served by chaplains in a highly pluralistic environment. There is one Southern Baptist Church off base and one Fundamental Baptist Church in the area.

Project Description: A church planter is needed to establish a Presbyterian and Reformed witness in the Rota area. This church will be primarily directed at the American military community. A bilingual pastor could reach out to the Spanish community. This is a pioneering effort. Funding for the work will be initially borne by the sending presbytery that adopts this location. Churches outside the geographical bounds of the sending presbytery could also partner in this effort to expand the Kingdom of God and His Church. The church planter could also participate in raising funds for the effort. Becoming self-supporting will be a bit more challenging because of a smaller target population. The Church planter could implement an ongoing support effort by getting commitments from those who rotate through the church to continue to support the work when they move on to new locations. The church planter should be a self-starter. He must be willing to work hard. He should be a good expositor of the Word of God and he should have a heart to reach the lost with the good news of Christ. He should be a disciple maker. A man of strong faith and tender of heart is needed in this ministry. A familiarity with the military culture would be helpful, but not essential. A brief training period could be provided for a man without military experience so as to get him up to speed on the culture of the military. He should understand that the military community is a highly mobile entity. It moves soldiers and their family members quite often. This presents challenges and opportunities for the church planter. Challenges because of the loss of members on a regular basis as they move on and opportunities because there is a constant influx of new people for ministry. The pastor, during the course of his ministry, will literally impact thousands of lives with the Gospel. Additionally, the church planter must be prepared to live and work in an environment where there are few like-minded, if any, pastors around him.

Conclusion: The military community is a wonderful community that could benefit greatly from a doctrines of grace ministry. In addition to the opportunities for a life changing ministry, the minister and his family in their free time, can explore a great culture and beautiful country