

2020-21



***Navigating
a year of
challenges
with hope***



Expansion

Consolidation

A New Day



Australia



Page 12
India: A Year Full of Challenges



South Africa



Scotland



Page 23
Portraits of Hope and Restoration



Page 14
Expansion in the United Kingdom



Russia



United Kingdom

CONTENTS

- 4 About Us**
- 6 Mission, Vision and Values
- 8 Our Team
- 9 International Internships
- 10 Experiencing New Things

- 12 Betel International**
- 12 India: A Year Full of Challenges
- 14 Expansion in the United Kingdom
- 16 Who we Help: Statistics
- 18 Women in Betel
- 20 Faces: Photo Collage
- 22 New Books
- 23 Escaping Addiction
- 24 Testimonies
- 26 Betel Australia
- 27 News

- 28 How we Help**
- 30 Covid Protocol
- 31 Kilo of Love
- 32 Resident Services
- 33 Prison Ministry
- 34 Training
- 35 Dental Clinic in Madrid
- 38 FAQ
- 39 Directory



Breezing Up by Winslow Homer
National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
Symbol of the year 2020-2021, a time of uncertainty and a time to navigate challenges with hope and determination.

A Year of Challenge

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the family of Betel among the nations. This year has been a challenge that has demanded courage, strength, sacrifice, and tenacity on the part of our diverse and multicultural teams.

In truth, the present pandemic has ‘turned the world upside down’ and has forced Betel to initiate innumerable changes in our social activities and also in the many non-profit projects and businesses that finance our free programs.

In the following pages we show how the Betel family has adapted to these changes and challenges. Also, you will see how we have made a great effort to obey and fulfill all the pertinent counsel, professional guidance and governmental regulations related to this worldwide health crisis while at the same time preserving the values and Christian ethos that has inspired and guided Betel’s labors. It is an honor to declare that Betel’s free program still remains available to all who desire to enter.

Also, we must give thanks for the generosity of our many friends, donors, and the governmental bodies among the nations that have stood with us throughout the years—and especially during this recent pandemic.

Sincerely,
Elliott Tepper
Director of Betel International



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliott Tepper".



"This year has demanded courage, strength, sacrifice, and tenacity"

Kolosok, Russia
Community meeting at the Betel property

A model of restoration

Helping each other through peer support

Betel provides a model of restoration that has helped radically transform many lives. It does so through a drug-free residential program inspired by Christian values.

This international Christian ministry is based on mutual support. Community residents help one another through peer support. Betel develops charitable businesses that fund the free program for people affected by severe conflict, leading to family breakdown, homelessness, long-term unemployment and substance abuse.

Since we welcomed our first man from the streets of Madrid in 1985, we have helped tens of thousands of homeless and drug and alcohol-de-

pendent people. Betel's residences offer a safe, family atmosphere and are free from drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Our end goal is to help people not only escape addiction, but become productive, trustworthy men and women of character when they leave our community.

Today Betel is in more than 100 cities in 22 nations, offering its residential program free of charge and with no waiting list. It was declared a Public Utility in the year 2000 and is registered in the National Register of Associations of the Ministry of the Interior in Spain.

Vision

Our vision is not only to cure addiction, but also to train and empower individuals who are committed to the ethos of Betel, so that the personal and social benefits of our program might be extended beyond Betel to bring hope to the neediest people in the world.

Mission

Our mission is to restore lives that have been broken by drug abuse, alcoholism and social exclusion. We achieve this goal by building character in a caring Christian community. Our residences are free of charge and are supervised principally by graduates who have successfully overcome their addictions in Betel's program, with the assistance of the leadership team.

Values

- » We defend basic human rights and the dignity of the individual.
- » We consider the family to be the fundamental institution in society.
- » We are committed to and embrace generous hospitality.
- » We strive for transparency, effectiveness and efficiency in the utilization of our resources



Betel residents at the headquarters in Madrid, Spain



Betel community in Australia

Women's Residence *Torrelodones*



- ▶ Residence for women in or at risk of social exclusion, with or without addictions, offering a long-term, drug-free program, free of charge and with no waiting list, authorized for mothers accompanied by their minor children
- ▶ 500 m² residence
- ▶ 3.000 m² exterior
- ▶ 15 places for women
- ▶ 4 places for accompanied children

▶ Find out more?

Call our intake line:

+34 91 525 2222



Our Team in Spain

Dedicated to Restoring Lives

The great team of people that forms the driving force of Betel is made up of collaborators, volunteers and professionals, many of whom have received the same help they now offer to others. Betel has a team of professionals located in Madrid, Malaga, Barcelona and Tarragona and Seville who offer support both nationally and internationally. In spite of the pandemic, Betel has strived to maintain its professional staff.

Profesionales	Nº
Program coordinators	20
Doctors	4
Dentists	7
Dental assistants	6
Social workers	4
Social educators	2
Psychologists	2
Family therapist	1
Attorneys	4
Economist	1
Architect	1
IT specialist	1
Graphic designer	1
Admin. assistants	10
Mechanics	1
Maintenance	3
Total	68

*2020 Madrid, Malaga, Barcelona Tarragona and Seville

Betel is made up of collaborators, volunteers and professionals

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- » President
Elliott Edward Tepper
- » Vice President
Lindsay John Mckenzie
- » Secretary
Javier González Espejel
- » Treasurer
José Luis Verdú Esteve
- » Board Member
Juan Carlos Matesanz
- » Board Member
Eduardo Hdez.-Lissen

International Internships

An opportunity to see lives transformed

"Life-changing internships" is the slogan of Betel's international volunteer project. The program offers short, medium and long term internships in the UK, Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Russia and India among other nations. It offers a unique opportunity to live and work alongside Betel residents.

Serving at Betel means being part of the life of our communities. It is about sharing daily life with our residents in every activity, work and devotional times.

Activities include eating meals together, doing household chores, working in our charitable businesses

and building healthy relationships.

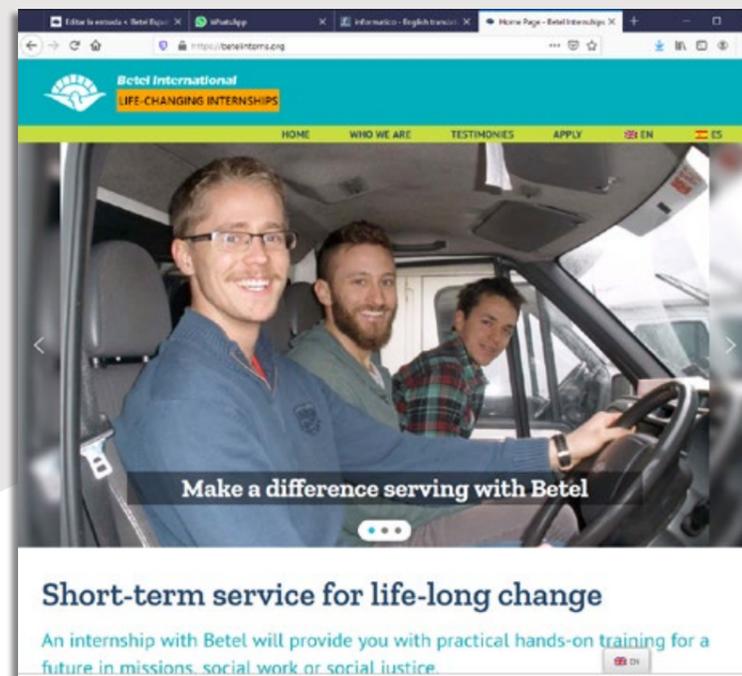
Each country has its own charitable businesses based on what works best for their culture. Examples include house removals, landscape gardening, farming, construction, furniture shops and cafés.

In 2020 the program received 159 applications from 37 countries and 6 continents, with a final selection of 15 women and 5 men who served as interns in Europe, even during the pandemic.

This year the program has launched a new bi-lingual website at the web address: betelinterns.org.

Serving at Betel means being part of the life of our communities

Betel Interns



International Volunteer Destinations (2020)	
● 4	Spain
● 12	UK
● 3	Russia
● 1	Germany
● 20	Total

Website betelinterns.org

Experiencing new things

A volunteer experience at Betel



Julia, who is originally from Buenos Aires, learned about Betel’s social work in 1991 through her friend Pilar. Before leaving Argentina, she was certain that God had called her to work with drug addicts, although she did not understand how, because she had never taken drugs and had never had any contact with that world.

The fulfilment of this call came in 2005, when Julia, at the age of 60, began attending the Betel Church in Madrid. She began serving with the Street Outreach Team that went to Valdemingómez (Madrid’s illegal drug market). Julia made sandwiches with home-made potato ‘tortillas’ (Spanish potato omelettes) every Tuesday to hand out to people with problems with addiction who lived on the street. The team would talk with the drug-dependent men and women, offering them a place in Betel’s rehabilitation centre. Many entered the centre after tasting the tortilla sandwiches made with so much love by Julia. “God told me to make the tortillas with excellence,” Julia said.

While Julia worked on the Street Outreach Team, she also began serving in Nursing Homes visiting the elderly and in the ‘12 de Octubre’ Hospital, visiting the sick.

At the end of 2011, Julia was diagnosed with melanoma on her right leg and doctors gave

her two and a half months to live. She underwent surgery in February 2012 and emerged cancer-free – she still is. “I always shared my testimony with the sick, how faith in God healed me from cancer” says Julia, speaking of her time volunteering at the hospital.

Julia goes on to tell her story, “The Lord told me: you have completed your tasks in Valdemingómez, the nursing homes and the hospitals. Now I want you in the kitchen with the women

“I have a delightful time. I am experiencing new things with the women at the age I am! I love them as if they were my daughters.”

of the community.” After 6 years in the Street Outreach Team, 8 years in the Nursing Homes and 6 years in the hospitals, Julia started her new challenge. For the past 2 years, she has been working every Wednesday in the kitchen of the community centre with the Betel women, where they prepare lunch for 50-80 people. About her time in the kitchen with the women beneficiaries of the association’s social program, Julia says: “It’s very special. I love being with them. Sometimes we dance in the kitchen and I feel rejuvenated when I am with them. I have a delightful time. Even at my age, I am experiencing new things with the women here! I love them as if they were my own daughters.

As a highlight of her call to serve with excellence, Julia participated in a training course for Betel’s social program monitors in 2020, along with 24 other people, including monitors and volunteers from the association.



Madrid, Spain
Julia serving in the kitchen with the Betel women



Maria Julia Di Santi
Volunteer at age 75 having served for over 10 years in different ministries in Betel



Madrid, Spain
Julia serving food with the Street Outreach team in Valdemingómez

Asha Bhawan

A Year full of challenges

Twenty two years ago, Betel in India, known in Hindi as Asha Bhawan (House of Hope), established its first shelter homes for men, women and children, beginning in Gurugram, on the outskirts of New Delhi, and subsequently reaching right across India, as well as into other countries such as Nepal and Mongolia.

In 2020 the communities of Asha Bhawan in India and Nepal have overcome the great challenge of sustaining a community of 600 people with extremely limited sources of funding when compared with other Betel communities in Europe. And all this whilst being confronted by the suspension of normal economic activities during extended periods of lockdown.

It was impossible for the directors to travel and consequently they were unable to supervise and encourage the different communities spread out over a radius of some 4000 km. Just one example is that our principal leader in Nepal remained trapped in Kolkata with his wife and baby for 10 months.

Another challenge has been the general sense of fear of Covid that arose, including amongst some of the principal leaders. It was necessary to administer love and patience in abundance to dispel the myths surrounding the coronavirus, mainly generated by the social networks. The reality has been much more positive with very few cases of the virus in our communities and those that were infected, subsequently recovered well.

The Asha Bhawan adolescents and children were affected more than anything by the closing of schools and universities. The online classes proved inadequate for most of them.

Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid and the economic difficulties during this last year, Asha Bhawan inaugurated a new shelter home in the town of Daranga Mela in the State of Assam. This town is situated on the border of India with Bhutan, a country which itself has a growing problem of drug addiction and alcoholism.



Gurugram, India
University students who have grown up in the Asha Bhawan children's home

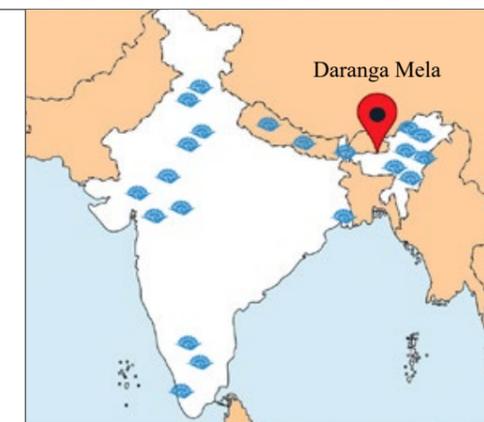


Sattal, India
Asha Bhawan leadership conference in the state of Uttarakhand in the north of the country

In 2020, they have overcome the great challenge of sustaining a community of 600 people with extremely limited sources of funding

New house in Daranga Mela

On the 15th of March 2021, Asha Bhawan in India opened its doors in the city of Daranga Mela, which lies on the border with Bhutan. The pioneer team is made up of 6 men from the center in Guwahati (also in the state of Assam).



Expansion in the UK

Growth in Birmingham, Nottingham and Derby

'Anchor Point' new HQ for Betel in Birmingham

Betel's multi-purpose national headquarters in the United Kingdom is taking shape in the center of Birmingham. The building has been named 'Anchor Point' and is a 3,716 square meter former warehouse. The space is in the process of being renovated into a multi-purpose center for Christian education, conferences and training.

Anchor Point's name declares its purpose: to "anchor" or to stabilize hurting lives and propel them in a new, purposeful direction. When finished, the site will host Betel's local church congregation, Bible school, national admin offices and seven social enterprises, harmonized to serve the local community as well as provide training in employable skills to dozens of Betel residents recovering from substance addictions, offending and homelessness.

During the past year, several large financial donations have enabled the three-phase renovations to progress, with completion of phase two planned for mid July. We confidently continue to seek the remaining £3.7 million required to finish phase three. Our target for Anchor Point's inaugural opening is spring 2022, in time to celebrate Betel UK's 25th anniversary.



Birmingham, UK
Leadership team in front of the new HQ building also known as 'Anchor Point'

Anchor Point's name declares its purpose: to "anchor" or to stabilize hurting lives and propel them in a new, purposeful direction



Nottingham, United Kingdom
Aerial view of the new Betel house under construction on the 'Manna Farm' property.

Large men's house under construction in Nottingham

Betel's Manna Farm property, just north of the city of Nottingham, hosts 22 men and four families on nearly four-hectares of rural grounds. The vision had long been to build a second men's residence on the site, but lack of finances had prevented it—until now.

Just months ago during the pandemic, the wealthy, grateful parents of a young man recovering in Betel Nottingham inquired as to how they could help the center. Within weeks they had bought a few commercial vehicles and power gardening equipment to upgrade and strengthen our businesses.

Betel center directors Paul & Rebekah Toon then mentioned

that architectural plans were already drawn to build a large new residence on-site, designed to host 40 men and two families and that an area Foundation had committed to donate £200,000 towards the £950,000 (€1.1 million) project if Betel somehow came up with the rest.

As the owners of a large construction company, the couple offered to finance the rest and have their company build the residence for Betel Nottingham from foundation to finish at no cost. Despite the pandemic, the construction has gone ahead and should be ready by June 2021 to accept new men into the program.

Derby property quadrupled

Our Betel Derby center lies 15 kilometers south of the city on peaceful farmland, in view of rolling green meadows and grazing sheep. Known as Hope Barn, the one-hectare surroundings recently almost quadrupled in size. This was thanks to generous financial donations enabling us to purchase an additional three hectares of adjoining farmland, complete with two large warehouses for furniture restoration and lots of storage for our gardening business materials. Hope Barn hosts some 40 recovering men and supports a nearby women's community and families.



Derby, United Kingdom
Betel directors in front of the property in Derby, "Hope Barn"

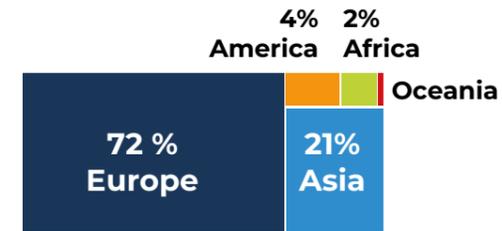
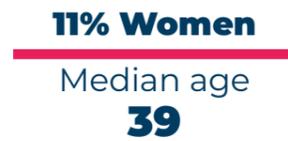
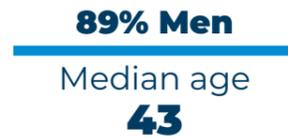
Who We Help

Profile of a Betel Resident

Betel receives all who come in search of help, within its resources and possibilities.

This year it is noteworthy to observe that the percentage of residents who were homeless before coming into the program has gone up from 11% in 2019 to 16% in 2020.

Among Betel's intakes there have been an increase of recently unemployed individuals, going from 26% in 2019 to 31% in 2020. We dare to affirm that these statistics reflect the economic and social impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.



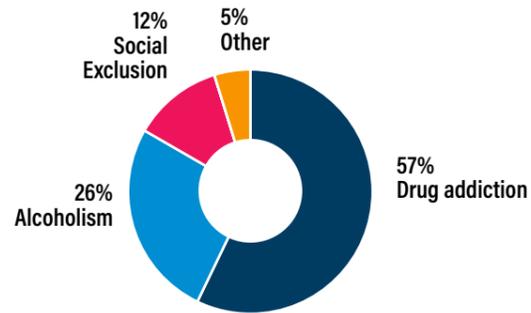
Admissions 2020

Intakes in Spain

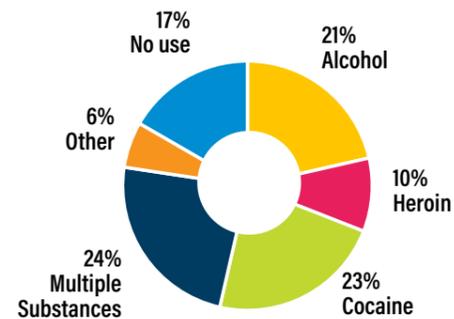
1.259

International Intakes

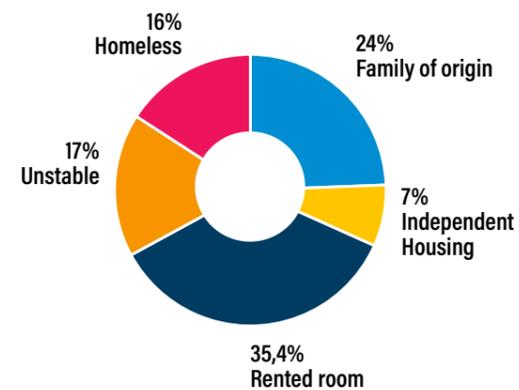
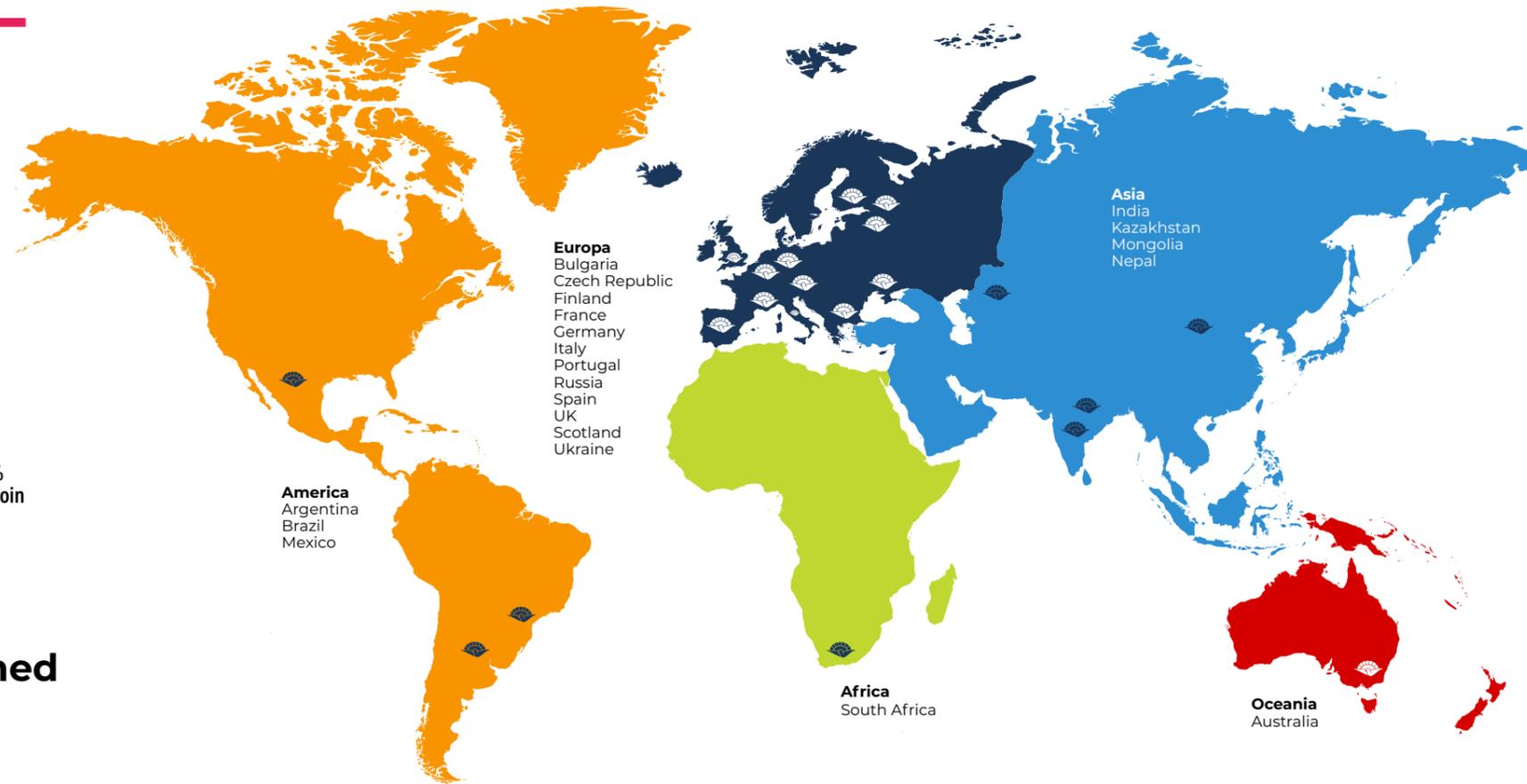
2.637



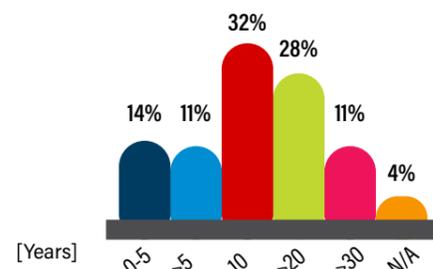
Reason for Admission



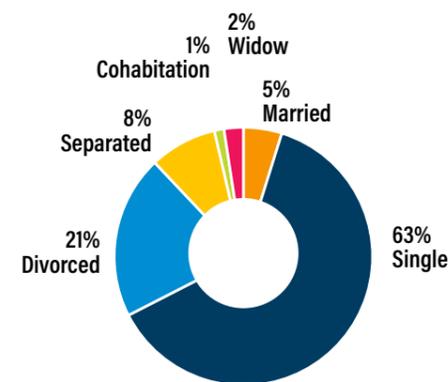
Substance Consumed



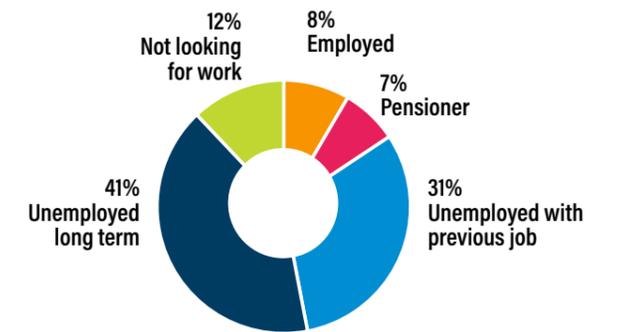
Living Situation



Period of Use



Marital Status



Employment Status

* Statistics taken from the province of Madrid 2020



St. Petersburg, Russia
Women from the Betel community

Women in Betel

A Future Free from Addiction

In recent years, the use of drugs has continued to grow among women. This is largely due to a greater social acceptance of drug use by females.

Drug addiction is a serious health problem for both sexes, however, for women the consequences can be more serious due to biological factors such as their metabolism or lower weight. Also the social stigma of drug use falls more heavily on a drug dependent woman, since the consumption of drugs is considered worse for women than for men.

Generally, women's motivations for seeking treatment have to do with emotional or relational issues, such as improving their family ties, recovering their children or the fear of losing their partner.

To address the sociocultural factors women face, we focus on aspects that are unique to women. The most significant are:

- » **The guilt and shame involved in not taking care of dependent family members.**
- » **Self esteem that is based on the opinion of others**
- » **The use of the body and sexuality as influential or determining tools in social relations**

In Betel we respond to these different aspects, focusing intervention on the creation of new support networks among women through mutual help in the Betel residences, attending to the importance of body image for women's self-esteem through health education, providing training in violence prevention and other issues specific to women, as well as in social and communication skills such as assertiveness, knowing how to say no or expressing wants and needs.

Womens Houses

24 Residences in 8 Countries

6	Spain
5	India
5	United Kingdom
3	Russia
2	Mongolia
1	Portugal
1	Czech Republic
1	South Africa

The story of:

Marina Weiman

Responsible for the Women's Center in Kolosok, Russia

I was born in 1967, in Novosibirsk, in the south of Russia. I am 53 years old and I've been in the community of Betel Russia for 8 years.

For many years, I was caught up in the drug scene and as a result of this I also got caught up in crime. When I was young, living in the USSR, I had no Christian faith because the government proclaimed and taught athiesm. Even so, I knew in the bottom of my heart that God existed. Thirty years have gone by since I believed in Christ thanks to the Baptists who preached in Vologda, where I was serving a prison sentence. There I

"I've reestablished relations with my family, who I had abandoned before for drugs and easy money, but they have all forgiven me"

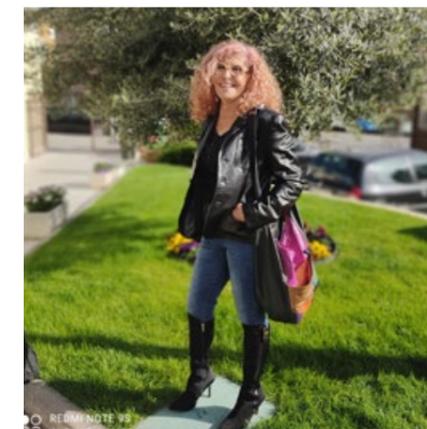
repented all by myself before God, in front of a little chapel in the prison patio. I truly understood that God had forgiven me and he loved me unconditionally. He filled my soul with gratitude and happiness.

In 2013, I was released from prison. Two terrible weeks passed before I found a team of women from Betel who were distributing calendars. They told me about the Women's Center and they reminded me of Jesus' love for me.

I joined the Women's Center in St. Petersburg and after one year, I was invited to join the Center in Kolosok as a helper, where I've been serving since then. In 2015, I was given the responsibility to lead the Women's House.

After all these years in Betel, I've re-established relations with my family, who I had abandoned earlier for drugs and easy money, and they have all forgiven me. Now I have a grandson who has no idea that his grandmother consumed drugs for 20 years and was in prison three times.

My God is powerful! I am immensely grateful for my transformed life! Now I have another big family in Betel, and it is a joy to be part of this wonderful community.



Madrid, Spain
Vivi, leader of the Women's House in Torreledones

The story of:

Maria Vicenta Ferrer Robles

Responsible for the Women's Center in Torreledones, Madrid

I'm Vivi. I'm 64 years old. I have 4 daughters and 5 grandchildren. I've been HIV positive for 37 years and have survived multiple adversities.

I come from a family of 5 siblings, all with addictions. One of my brothers died very young because of drug use. Out of all my siblings, I continued the longest with addiction. My mother has always been an unconditional moral and emotional support for me. After more than 35 years of addiction, I don't know what would have become of me without her.

If there has been something really good in my life, it has been my family. They have never abandoned me, they have always been by my side, supporting me and reaching out to me. My love for my daughters and grandchildren could not be greater.

Many have fallen in my path and I always asked myself: why not me? Now I think I know: God had a purpose for me.

Three years ago, almost dying, I arrived at Betel. I felt that I had run out of options.

Here I found myself, the person I really was. I was reconciled with God after I had pushed him out of my life, even though I knew he was always by my side.

Now I'd like to give back a little of what I've been given in Betel, which is so much. I am deeply grateful to my pastors, Lucia and Pepe, for all they have done to help me. There are more people to whom I am grateful, but there would be too many to name. I am sure they know who they are.

The Betel Family



Madrid

England

Madrid

Italy

Madrid

Madrid

England

Italy

Nepal

England

Valencia

Madrid

Mallorca

Scotland

Australia

Russia

Madrid

Portugal

Madrid

India

Madrid

Madrid

Scotland

Germany

Madrid

Mongolia

Madrid

Czech Republic

United Kingdom

Would you like to know us better?

New Books

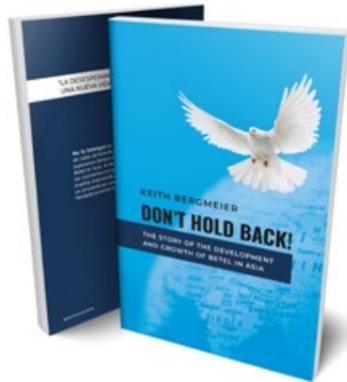
Written by leaders of Betel



The Baskets that Overflowed

Oscar Matesanz

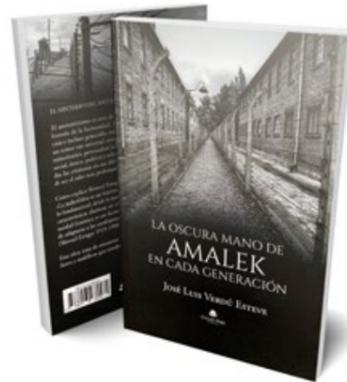
Las Cestas Que Sobraron is a collection of 14 sermons by Oscar Matesanz, a former resident and graduate of Betel's program. Oscar entered Betel over thirty years ago and has dedicated his life to discipling individuals with problems of addiction and social exclusion. He has gone on to become one of Betel's leading pastors among the nations.



Don't Hold Back

Keith Bergmeier

'Don't Hold Back' tells the story of the development and growth of Betel in Asia, known in India as Asha Bhawan (House of Hope). The book is a compilation of incredible life stories about ex-drug addicts who found hope, a new future and healing from addiction.



Amalek in Every Generation

Jose Luis Verdu

This work attempts to shine a little light on one of the most harmful evils that has been repeated throughout the long annals of human history. Antisemitism is one of those strange and dark phenomena. It has the sad record of being the longest hatred in history towards a people.

Other Titles

Sacking the Frontiers of Hell

Stewart & Marie Dinnen

Rescue Shop within a Yard of Hell

Stewart & Marie Dinnen

We Dance Because we Cannot Fly

Guy Cheveau

The Cost of the Kingdom

Elliott Tepper



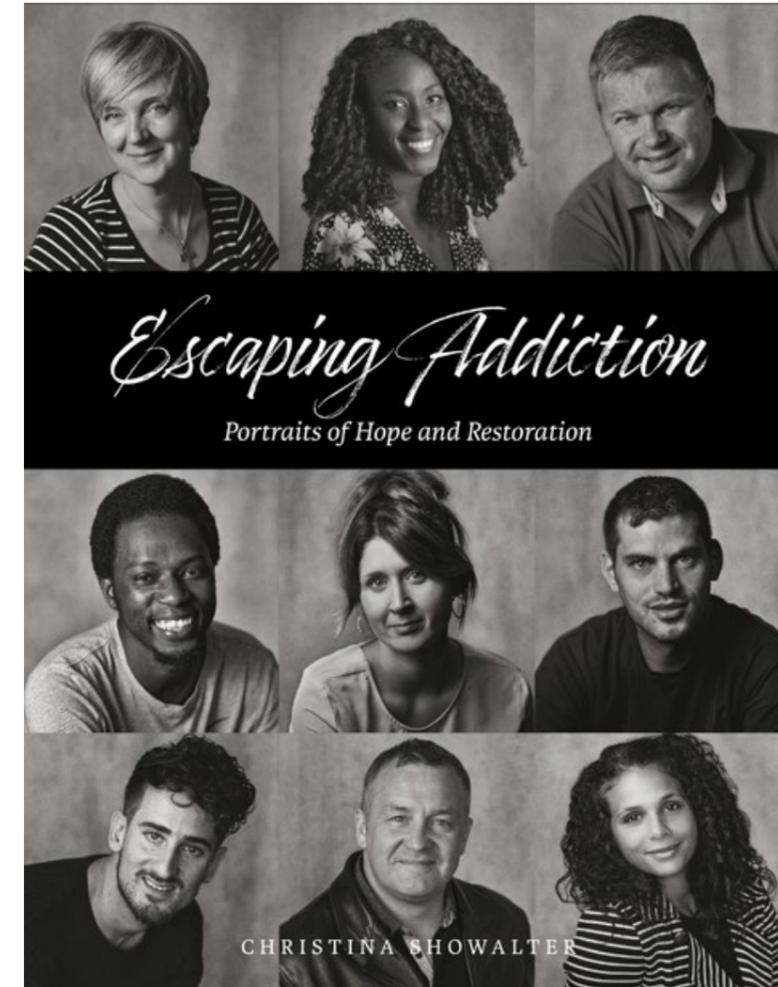
Narnia Bookstore

+34 91 525 22 22

Available on Amazon and other internet distributors

Escaping Addiction

Portraits of Hope and Restoration



Escaping Addiction
by Christina Showalter

Available for purchase:
United Kingdom
Website: betel.uk

United States
Website: shop.multzi.com

In the year 2020, Christina Showalter produced a fine art photography book with 48 testimonies about the lives of Betel residents in the United Kingdom. Christina has owned and operated a professional photography studio for 17 years. Her first book, *Escaping Addiction: Portraits of Hope and Restoration* combines her passion for photography with her desire to share life-changing stories. She lives with her husband and two children in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Grace Covenant, a supporting church of Betel UK is their home church.

Christina explains, "In this book, I'm sharing stories that show it is not only possible to be free from addiction, but it's thinkable to flourish as well - and help others attain freedom. After interviewing over fifty people who have experienced varied levels of success and freedom from addiction I've seen the proven results that through community and Jesus it is possible to heal and move forward." ►

John

Stokenchurch, England

"I had rebelled my entire life, rebelled against the world and all that it stood for. The rave¹ was the ultimate art of rebellion. We stood against the police and society. The world rejected us so we rejected it. We had created our own society. One where we made the rules and the rule was to have fun and 'stuff' the world."

Being a team leader at his job at the railway gained John an excellent wage which was all spent on his and his girlfriend's cocaine habits. "We lived in mental torture and I became a very dark version of myself. I gave up everyone for cocaine and my girlfriend." He was speeding very fast but John's world crashed to a sudden stop when he discovered his girlfriend had been stealing from him. After this he realized his life was a total fake. "I had everything you could want in life to have fun, but I felt empty and alone." Even though John used to mock his sister who was a Christian, he was suddenly curious enough to ask her about Jesus.

Attending an Alpha² course, he chose to give his life to Jesus. When the people at Alpha were praying for him, he suddenly felt a knot form in his stomach. It was like a well of emotion. "My emotions rose through my chest and came out of my eyes in floods of tears. I hadn't cried that much for years. I knew then that this was real, that Jesus was real."

"Since I asked Jesus into my life, things began to turn around. It looked like things were getting worse at first but He was simply trying to free me from the world and the things in it that



"I now know what I can fight for. I have something to live for, and die for."

were holding me back. I finally know who I am."

John learned that God doesn't waste anything. "The whole rebel attitude and non-conformist stuff is still in me, but I'm using it in a greater way - a totally different way because Jesus was the greatest non-conformist that ever lived! He lived and died for the truth. The truth is what I was missing my entire life. When I met Jesus that was it, I was like, 'I've found it!' I now know what I can fight for. I have something to live for, and die for." 🌱

¹Raves were organized parties with DJs supplying electronic dance music. The illegal things happening at these parties quickly made the gatherings themselves illegal. - [Wikipedia](#)

²Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. - [Alpha.org](#)

Allison

Londres



At 24 years old, Allison had the most amazing life! She was a journalist living in a beautiful flat in West London and had a long-term boyfriend. Her life was full of parties that her friends all envied. But there were a few secrets that no one knew about. Her undisclosed life was destroying her.

In university Allison decided to part from her God-fearing upbringing and have the fun that she thought God had prevented her from experiencing. Very quickly though, she found out the truth. Her boyfriend turned from charming to controlling and abusive. All the abuse and alcohol consumption changed her self image. She no longer saw any value in herself.

Two years into the relationship with her boyfriend she got pregnant. Feeling as if there

were no options for her, she aborted the baby. Full of shame and fear, she kept not only the secret of the abusive boyfriend but now the secret of the abortion. Friends and family were kept in the dark which only added to her feeling of being totally alone.

The day she had the abortion something changed. She had dreamed all her life of becoming a mother and now her life was not at all as she imagined it would be. Little by little the compromises she made took her places she never expected. In order to cope with the pain she began to drink more and more.

"My life had crumbled. I was a raging alcoholic. My life was a mess and I wanted to die. I know that if I didn't get help, I would kill myself; I couldn't see any way out of the situation I was in except suicide. I had no hope." Allison lost her job and ended up in hospital after having an alcohol-induced fit. She said, "I cannot describe the utter lostness and loneliness that had become my life. I had no hope."

So often when people hit rock bottom they look up. They begin to find hope again. Allison received a second chance when she found a place where she felt immediately welcomed and part of something. The women she met at Betel overwhelmed her with a sense of love. To be in a group of women and feel uplifted, encouraged and valued is rare and precious indeed.

Through the love of these women, Allison came back to God and realized something about her past relationship with Him. She had never truly known or understood the love that God had for her. He loved and accepted her and wasn't looking for her to prove anything or perform in a certain way to please Him. She was able to stop chasing fulfillment and was filled with love and acceptance by God. She said the pain of those years away from God still stings but "The journey is a process. I still mourn the loss of my baby. There is so much regret but I have been given a new life. I look forward to hopefully becoming a mother, I have a fresh start." The hope and new life she has now is evident in the immense amount of laughter that surrounds her!

Allison and Alex were married in September 2019 and are serving as a couple in Nottingham to give other broken lives real hope. 🌱



"I never pictured a life without drugs and alcohol"

Zachary from Betel Australia tells his story



My name is Zachary, I grew up in a small town called Donnybrook in Western Australia. My parents separated when I was young, they were both drug users and now that I am older, I have come to understand how methamphetamines can damage a family.

When I was a teenager Mum was coming towards the end of a 28-year addiction, where she hit rock bottom and went to rehab. When we lived at her place, we chose when we wanted to go to school. Mum was either high, drunk, or "coming down" in bed and verbally abusive.

When I turned 18 years old, I finished school and had a job at the local service station. When I was not at work, I spent my time at home smoking and selling weed. I never sorted any of my childhood issues out. This played the main part in becoming the person I became.

It was an out-of-control lifestyle over the next few years. Around the age of 22 I was looking at a 1-year jail sentence for a possession charge. My case ended in a 12-month suspended sentence but when I left the courtroom, I continued with my binge.

A year later, reaching the bottom of the bottom, I had pushed all my friends and family, who loved me, away. I lost my job, I was up to my neck in debt and attempted suicide a few times but failed. I was done with life.

I came into the center on the 25th October 2019 a broken, hurt, confused man. I lasted 6 weeks before I relapsed again but they accepted me back. I have been clean now for 9 months. Learning to be teachable in the program, I have radically changed in the way I speak, think and the way I act.

Looking back, I am so thankful for the journey I have been on and the people I have met. I have reconnected with all my family and we are slowly building back the relationships that were broken.

I have hope for the future. I never pictured a life without drugs and alcohol as this was all I knew and what was around me.

Coming to know more and more about God has played a huge part in my recovery. I no longer look at myself as a drug addict or the son of drug addicts but as a valued member of society.

I am excited to see where this new life will take me. I know that God has a plan for my life and I'm looking forward to seeing what that is.



Men's house in Betel Australia

Boxes of Joy

'Operation Christmas Child' sends 35,299 gift boxes from the Betel Madrid headquarters

In 2020 Operation Christmas Child used the Betel Madrid headquarters for the second consecutive year as their national logistic center for their Christmas campaign. In Betel's second auditorium, boxes full of Christmas gifts destined for needy children in the Sahara, Togo and other countries in North Africa were prepared, packed and sent to the nations. Samaritan's Purse is coordinated in Spain by Decision, directed by Jose Pablo Sanchez and coordinated by David Delgado.

Despite the restrictions and difficulties related to the Covid pandemic, Operation Christmas Child collected a total of 9,113,853 gift boxes from more than 100 participating countries in 2020. Betel of Finland also participated this year in Operation Christmas Child with our Helsinki headquarters acting as the collection and shipping center for Finnish gifts for the nations.



Madrid, Spain

Volunteers prepare boxes to be shipped to the Sahara and Togo



Volunteers loading a truck with gift boxes



Reception area for volunteers

'Adiós' to Jose Manuel and Silvia

More than 20 years of service

On the 23rd of March 2021 the Betel family said goodbye to Jose Manuel and Silvia Garcia, a Canadian WEC missionary couple who have served in Betel Madrid for more than 20 years. Together they have served for decades in Betel's 'Street' Ministry in some of the neediest and most dangerous marginalized areas of Madrid. They were known and loved especially in the notorious Valdemingomez Gypsy Camp.

They were also pioneers and leaders in the creation of the first governmentally recognized 'Chaplains for Hospitals and Retirement Homes' teams. The Betel family greatly appreciates their years of faithful and inspired service. We will dearly miss them. Jose Manuel and Silvia have moved to Canada to be near their children and grandchildren where they continue serving as missionaries with WEC Canada.



Jose Manuel and Silvia Garcia

How we Help

Methodology

Betel's method is founded on the idea that each person has the potential to change one's self and others. It is a peer motivated process; desperate people helping desperate people, creating a synergy that makes the impossible possible, in short, the restoration of broken lives.

In each Betel home, the more advanced residents develop a relationship with the newcomers, helping them adapt to their day to day activities, guiding them in their process of restoration. This also helps the more experienced men and women as they take on increased responsibility and care for others.

This is done by:

- » Creating a welcoming place for people at risk of social exclusion, where peer support fosters personal growth and change
- » Providing for basic needs – food, shelter, clothing and where possible we offer practical support with medical, social and legal problems.
- » Providing an environment that is drug, alcohol and tobacco free
- » Providing an environment where people can develop self-discipline, constructive habits and character

**"As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another."**

- Proverbs 27:17



Czech Republic
Betel community

Confronting Covid in Spain

Measures taken to keep Betel residents safe

On March 13, 2020, the Spanish Government decreed a state of emergency due to Covid, suspending all non-essential activities and ordering the closure of all educational and work centers. The streets of Spain were desolate. The roads had no traffic, except for ambulances, police cars, trucks for transporting essential goods, empty passenger buses and military convoys. Betel had to close its doors to new arrivals, as well as its charity shops and dental clinics. The minimum number of essential workers remained to supervise the implementation of basic safety and hygiene measures, and protect the welfare of the residents.

The impact of the health, economic and social crisis caused by Covid has been very hard on Betel, as on society as a whole, but with no loss of human lives. For example, in the first wave of the pandemic between the months of March and April, in Madrid there were 20 confirmed cases of sick people, of which 14 were hospitalized including 6 in the ICU, and no deaths.

The impact of the health, economic and social crisis caused by Covid has been very hard on Betel, but with no loss of human lives

On June 21, after 98 days of lockdown, the government decreed a return to the 'new normal'. Betel is gradually resuming normal activity, in the men's and women's houses, as well as in the charity shops and dental clinics, although in a controlled manner. It is progressively implementing admission protocols and contingency plans against Covid in the residences, including antigen tests for those who request admission and isolation periods.

Many people who applied for admission during the worst moments of the first wave of the pandemic were unable to enter due to the lockdown measures.

Considerable effort was made to defer payments and apply for loans in order to survive financially. In the midst of this difficult situation for Betel and society as a whole, especially for the most disadvantaged who were already struggling before the pandemic and whose situation has been greatly aggravated, we have maintained a firm commitment to our vision, mission and values, taking the best possible care of the people already in our care and opening the center to new admissions. In the end, we have come out stronger.

Ciudad Real, Spain
Team from the Betania Retreat Center at the hospital after being vaccinated



A Kilo of Love

Much needed food for families in the pandemic

Betel helps to alleviate the needs of people with scarce resources through the distribution of food. This food comes from the Spanish Agricultural Guarantee Fund (FEAGA). Food production surplus is acquired by the state for distribution to charitable entities, such as Betel, which in turn gives the food directly to the neediest local families.

In 2020 Betel has distributed, just in Madrid, a total of 27,980 kg to families with a total of 299 people these individuals must comply with legal requirements, including a social assessment. Due to the Covid pandemic, many families have seen their income reduced or even cut off, causing a social emergency. For these reasons, hundreds of people have come, desperately seeking our help.

Our association continued to distribute food normally and we even had to increase the number of volunteers due to the increase in the number of users requesting food.

The Spanish Federation of Food Banks (FESBAL), states that in just a couple of months since the pandemic began, the demand for food shot up by 30%.

On the other hand, we had the collaboration of the NGO "World Central Kitchen" dedicated to supplying meals around the world after natural disasters. Its founder is the Spanish chef Jose Andres. Each day 150 menus were delivered to Betel during the months of May and June 2020, consisting of a main dish, salad and fruit.

Many families have seen their income reduced or even cut off, causing a social emergency



Madrid, Spain
Volunteers from Betel handing out food to families in need



Resident services in Spain

Health, judicial and family assistance

Betel in Spain works with different agencies, both public and private, city councils, hospital and prison social workers and other social services in order to better care for the residents in Betel's program.

In order to meet the growing demand of people not in Betel's residences, Betel also offers assistance in the way of Information and Guidance Services for those who need support.



Madrid
Doctor performing a Covid antigen test as a prerequisite for admission into Betel

Health care

Betel in Spain offers assistance for its residents in the area of health, focusing on two fundamental objectives: first, the promotion of good health, both physical and mental and second, prevention and early detection of illness. To achieve these objectives, Betel Spain has a team composed of doctors, psychologists, social workers and social educators. The team works from a motivational perspective to help the resident in their process of restoration and personal change.

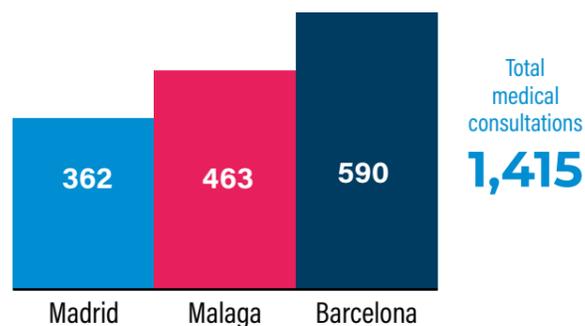
In the year 2020 Betel Spain carried out 1,415 medical consultations (Madrid 362, Malaga 463, Barcelona 590).

Legal Assistance

A high percentage of Betel residents have pending legal matters with the justice system. In response to this need, Betel offers legal and criminal counseling services. Some residents are even given the possibility of completing prison sentences within Betel or having their sentences suspended, for drug related offenses. These measures help in the process of rehabilitation and recovery. In 2020 Betel Spain carried out 134 such interventions (see graph below).

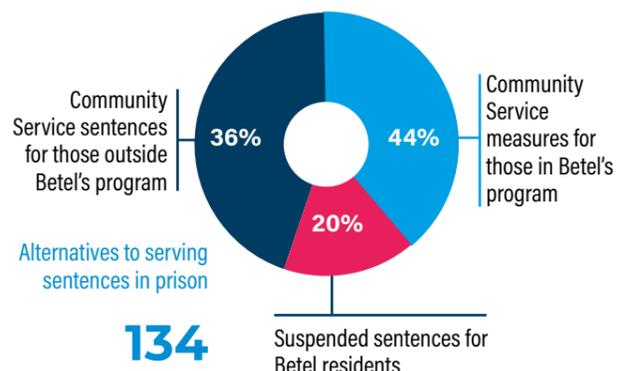
Betel also receives individuals from outside the residential program who are able to serve sentences doing Community Service in Betel, offering 18 service positions in Spain, helping a total of 59 people in 2020.

MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS



* Data from the year 2020 in Betel Spain

LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Prison Ministry

Hope and Encouragement for Prisoners

Another focus of Betel's activities is in prison ministry. In correctional facilities throughout Spain, Betel sends teams of volunteers to hold weekly meetings that bring hope and encouragement through a variety of activities such as music, personal testimonies, videos, forums and conferences. As a consequence of these visits a number of prisoners have been able to substitute their time spent in the Betel program as part of the completion of their prison sentence.

Penitentiary Centers that Betel visits in Spain:

- » Ocaña I in Toledo
- » Madrid V Soto del Real
- » Cuenca
- » Seville I and Seville II
- » Botafuegos in Algeciras
- » Ceuta
- » Alhaurin de la Torre, Malaga
- » Archidona, Malaga



Cuenca
First prison visit to Cuenca Prison after the quarantine lifted in 2020

Betel team and music group in front of the Cuenca prison



40,000 homeless people in Spain in 2020

Demand for homeless shelters rises 25%

According to recent studies¹ at the end of 2020, at least 40,000 people were living on the streets or relying on temporary or emergency accommodation, without a dignified and stable place of residence in Spain. It is much higher than the official figure of 33,000 people identified in 2015 in the Comprehensive National Strategy for Homeless People 2015-2020 of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, increasing the demand for homeless shelters by 25%.

These figures far exceed all government forecasts, and highlight the terrible impact of Covid in Spain's most vulnerable

people as well as the general population. People who until recently lived in a normal social situation, are losing their businesses and jobs, and as a consequence their homes, ending up homeless. People who suffer social exclusion and marginalization, often with substance abuse issues are the object of physical and verbal aggression. They suffer contempt from some, and are virtually invisible to the vast majority.



¹ Collection of Studies and Investigations number 22. Caritas Spain Editors 2020.

Leadership Training

Betel's Basic Monitor Training Course

Since 1998 Betel Madrid has offered annually our 'Basic Monitor Training Course'. It has been our desire to create a space where our professional team can impart the basic concepts and objectives of Betel, along with the essentials of our program, including the psychological and occupational needs of alcoholics and drug addicts.

This focus permits the prevention of both physical and mental illness associated with addiction. The course also provides practical tools to enable monitors to give more effective help to people admitted to our peer-driven program. The essence of the program is that people with common problems are empowered to help each other. One of the principal goals of our course is to enable our student monitors to become agents of social change in their surroundings.

Betel Madrid held its XXII Basic Monitor Training Course in the Fall of 2020 with a total of 18 classroom hours. Twenty five students completed the course.

One of the principal goals of our course is to enable our student monitors to become agents of social change in their surroundings



University Internships

University Educational Cooperation Agreements

During the year 2020, Betel has had an Educational Cooperation Agreement with one university and now has signed several new Agreements with other universities. These enable students to complete their practical component, a requirement of their degrees. Agreements have been re-signed or started with the following universities:

- » Complutense University of Madrid
- » Rey Juan Carlos University
- » University of Zaragoza
- » Comillas Pontifical University
- » Ramon Llull University

A highlight has been internships in the area of social assistance with Betel. These have been completed at Betel's headquarters in Madrid by students studying degrees in Psychology, Psychology and Criminology, and Social Work, from Complutense University, Comillas Pontifical University and the Pere Tarrés Foundation of Ramon Llull University.



"I am truly delighted to have chosen Betel for my social work internship. From the first moment I felt like one of the team, together with my tutor, Cynthia, a social worker, and all the other professionals who are part of Betel. I am learning a lot and hope to continue. It is a great experience both for my job training and for my life in general."

-Mar Lorca Rojals
Student at Ramon Llull University

Betel Dental Clinic

Dental Health with a Social Approach

Consultations

8.458

In Betel we have developed a dental clinic that serves the general population, but aims in particular to help groups with limited economic resources. The clinic offers dental services at very affordable prices, being undisputed leaders in the social sector of dentistry.

Betel offers these services in its International Headquarters in Madrid, Spain. The project is

made known through the website (clinicabetel.org) and social service offices of Madrid, providing dental care during 2020 to 2,448 patients with a total of 8,458 consultations.

In addition, 407 patients have been referred by Public Health Services and by the Municipal Social Services of Madrid, as well as by Caritas and the Red Cross. Of these, 140 patients have been benefi-

ciaries of financial aid from public and private social welfare services.

In 2020 Betel also provided full or partial economic financing for the treatment of 56 residents in Betel's residential program.

This year the clinic has launched a new version of its website at: clinicabetel.org.



Madrid, Spain
Dental team at the clinic located on the top floor of Betel's International Headquarters



TV documentary about Betel's clinic on TVE 2



New website: clinicabetel.org

Betania

▶ retirosbetania-betel.org

Betania is an ideal location for hosting events, church retreats or camps in a picturesque, rustic environment. Located in Ciudad Real (Spain) the property offers accommodations for 28 families and 300 individuals. There are swimming pools, recreational areas including a soccer field, basketball court, volleyball court and playground. It also has a camping ground for 1,500 people with bathrooms and showers, and outdoor auditorium for 3,000 people and an indoor auditorium for 300. The kitchen serves regional dishes and the dining hall seats 350 people.

Outdoor auditorium for up to 3,000 people



Aguas Vivas property

"Living Waters" Retreat Center

Aguas Vivas

▶ aguasvivas.org

Located just 60km north of Madrid, our retreat center 'Aguas Vivas' is found in an exceptional natural setting, where Betel offers a place for rest and refreshment. The property is perfect for camps, retreats, events and recreational activities.



Aguas Vivas main building



Gazebo



Terrace



Dining hall for 100 people

FAQ

► What is Betel?

Betel is a non-profit organization, whose purposes is receiving and caring for people with addiction problems, as well as social exclusion and homelessness. Our centers for men and women are free of charge and are run by people who have overcome addiction themselves. Our goal is to help people not only become free of addiction, but to become productive, trustworthy men and women of character when they leave our community.

► How is it supported?

The program is completely free of charge for all users. It supports itself through funds generated by occupational activities undertaken by the program's users as well as through donations and subsidies from both public and private donors.

► How to enter?

To enter Betel, call the number for admissions in your city of preference. See our directory on the opposite page or visit our international website for contact details

betel.org

Get involved

How can I help?

► Donate Household Items

To fund our charity, Betel receives donations of second hand furniture, appliances, clothing and other household items. Call us to request a pickup.

► Use our services

We do painting, masonry and contract cleaning of apartments and premises at affordable prices. Call us and ask for an estimate.

► Contribute financially

Each donation helps Betel fulfill its mission to rehabilitate and restore broken lives. Donors enjoy important tax benefits. Donations may be made via our website: betel.org

Volunteer

Volunteers are the key to Betel's success. Betel's expansion and vision is kept alive by them.

To find out more, visit: betelinterns.org

Directory

SPAIN

ALGECIRAS

Segismundo Moret, 7
11201 Algeciras · Cadiz
T. +34 956 58 70 08

ALICANTE

Av. Pintor Gaston Castello, 40 Bajo
03014 Alicante
T. +34 965 17 12 47

ALMERIA

Doctor Carracido, 19-21
04005 Almeria
T. +34 950 23 41 27

BARCELONA

C/ Riera, 14, bajos
08191 Rubi · Barcelona
T. +34 93 588 63 24

BILBAO

Plaza Aita Patxi 2, Local 7
48015 Bilbao · Bizkaia
T. +34 94 416 26 17

CADIZ

San Bruno, 28
11100 San Fernando · Cadiz
T. +34 856 17 61 88

CEUTA

Paseo de la Marina, 26
51001 Ceuta
T. +34 956 51 07 44

CIUDAD REAL

Calle Toledo, 34
13003 Ciudad Real
T. +34 926 22 89 13

CORDOBA

Trinitario Padre Manuel Fuentes, 2
14010 Cordoba
T. +34 957 43 41 48

CUENCA

Zaragoza, 2 Bajo
16003 Cuenca
T. +34 969 21 29 33

GRANADA

Avda. America, 53 Bajo
18008 Granada
T. +34 958 13 14 10

GUADALAJARA

Wenceslao Argumosa, 13
19003 Guadalajara
T. +34 949 22 97 69

HUELVA

Avda. de Cristóbal Colon, 82
21002 Huelva
T. +34 959 28 21 91

MADRID · HEADQUARTERS

Antonia Rodriguez Sacristan, 8
28044 Madrid
T. +34 91 525 22 22

MALAGA

Av. Jose Ortega y Gasset, 286
Poligono El Viso · 29006 Malaga
T. +34 952 33 49 26

MALLORCA

Francisco Fiol y Juan, 7, Bajo
07010 Palma de Mallorca
T. +34 971 75 38 82

MOTRIL

Plaza San Sebastian, 3
18600 Motril · Granada
T. +34 958 60 02 06

ORENSE

Nuestra Señora de la Sainza, 8 Bajo
32005 Orense
T. +34 988 25 37 51

SEVILLE

Jardin de la Isla, 6-M, Expolocal
41014 Sevilla
T. +34 95 468 08 45

TARRAGONA

Travessia Nou de Sant Josep, 17
43204 Reus · Tarragona)
T. +34 977 77 69 83

VALENCIA

Mora de Rubielos, 14 – 16 Bajo
46007 Valencia
T. +34 96 341 04 33

ZARAGOZA

Arias, 35
50010 Zaragoza
T. +34 976 53 48 84

INTERNATIONAL

Africa

NORTH AFRICA
T. +34 956 51 07 44

SOUTH AFRICA

Suite 197, Private Bag x4, Menlo
Park 0102 · Pretoria
T. +27 793 84 87 61

Asia

INDIA
T. +91 124 4221543

KAZAKHSTAN

T. +7 778 328 7375

MONGOLIA

Songinhairhan District
Area 3, 1-10
Ulaanbaatar City
T. +976 997 96824

NEPAL

T. +977 980 106 0066

America

ARGENTINA
Calle 157, 1667 (e. 66 y 67)
1900 La Plata · Buenos Aires
T. +54 221 456 3336

BRAZIL

Alameda dos Eucaliptus, 750
Chacara Seabra 06900-000
Embu-Guaçu · São Paulo
T. +55 11 967 369 058

MEXICO

Ferrocarril, 3
72700 Cuautlancingo · Puebla
T. +52 22 22302445

Europe

GERMANY
Wasbeker Str 276
24537 Neumünster
T. +49) 4321 179495

BULGARIA

U. I. Pop Bogomil, 49
Sofia 1202
T. +359 9 83 52 68

ESTONIA

Paldiski mnt. 2
76607 Keila
T. +372 59 17 36 48

FINLAND

Lyyranpolku, 1
Vantaa · Finland
T. +358 445 477 767

FRANCE

Rue Montecristo, 72
13004 · Marseille
T. +33 4 910 25415

ITALY

Via Roma, 509
80017 Melito di Napoli · NA
T. +39 081 509 50 77

PORTUGAL

Avda. 25 de Abril de 1974, 5A
2800-300 Almada · Lisboa
T. +35 121 276 3168

UNITED KINGDOM

Windmill House
Weatheroak Hill
Alvechurch · Birmingham
B48 7EA
T. +44 1564 822356

CZECH REPUBLIC

U Hrbítova , 939
27801 Kralupy nad Vltavou
T. +42 0603110635

RUSSIA

Ambulatomnaya Street 53,
Novo-Ivanovskoe
Mokovskaya Oblast
143026 Moscow
T. +7 915 322 88 25

UKRAINE

Pushkina Pereulok 1B, Taromskoye
Village, Dnepropetrovskaya
Oblast 49490
T. +380 97 719 51 26

Oceania

AUSTRALIA
PO Box 806 Lilydale
3140 Victoria
T. +61 434 214 527



Kathmandu, Nepal
Sorting clothing donated by international agencies outside the men's house



Headquarters in Madrid, Spain

Betel

Restoring broken lives

C/ Antonia Rodriguez Sacristan, 8
28044 Madrid Spain
Tel: +34 91 525 2222
Email: madrid@betel.org
Web: betel.org

