

MADRID

What is Spain, really? A foreigner's take on a semester abroad

When I first wanted to study in Spain, way back when I was a junior in high school, I thought of the country as a far-away place full of good times, sun, flamenco and bullfights in the middle of the street.

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is a junior majoring
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Spanish.

It was a rash simplification, I know, but nothing around me contradicted that image. Indeed, a 2008 study performed by Spain's Real Instituto Elcano found that those images made up nearly the entire image of Spain in the United States.

Only one in two Americans surveyed knew who King Juan Carlos I was, and only one in three knew of the current president, José Luis Rodríguez

Zapatero.

Even after taking a class about the actual cultural context of Spain last semester, those images stayed with me. Again, my surroundings didn't provide me with an alternative, and I even went so far as to call my semester blog "There Will Be Flamenco." I still knew it wasn't a complete picture, but I was going for what people knew about Spain.

After four months, I now know how wrong I was about Spain. It's not a rural country that just clawed its way out of the 19th century. It's a very urban nation that crawled its way out of the Francisco Franco dictatorship in the mid-1970s.

This is not to say that Spain is backwards. In fact, the exact opposite is true. The constitution recognizes a universal right of

health protection along with the usual freedoms of religion and the press.

The post-Franco transition to democracy was quite possibly the smoothest the world has ever, and it lists near or at the top of fields like automotive exports (sixth in the world), wine (first) and medicine (doctors in Barcelona performed the world's first full human face transplant on March 20).

Still, Spain has had to fight against a perceived image of social decline and passionate discord. The former empire conquered much of Central and South America, to be sure, but once France and Britain began to conquer the seas, Spain lost its good standing in the world.

The defeat of the Spanish Armada, ineffective attempts at

democracy and the loss of Cuba and the Philippines in 1898 sealed its fall from grace, and the civil war of 1936-39 condemned it to the backwaters of dictatorship for 40 years.

The tourist motto used during those 40 years ("Spain is different," written in English) didn't add credibility to their image, either.

A country doesn't leave such a history behind immediately. Although Spain was home to the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona and houses one of the world's best metro systems in Madrid, the image of the country as a place of sun and genial, if not completely modern, remains. It's a shame. A country with the world's ninth-highest GDP does not deserve such treatment.



ALEX FARRIS | IDS

Two children wait for the bride to exit her car before a wedding Jan. 30 outside the cathedral in Seville, Spain. Although traditional Spanish culture remains alive and well throughout most of the country, Spain has also developed into a thriving democracy with public health care and large multinationals.

VENICE, LA.

BP welcomes military aid to cope with oil spill in Gulf of Mexico

BY CAIN BURDEAU
The Associated Press

An oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that has become far worse than initially expected, and as government officials have offered help from the military to prevent a disaster that could destroy fragile marshlands along the shore.

"We'll take help from anyone," BP Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles said.

But time might be running out. Oil from the spill had crept within 12 miles of the coast, and it could coat as soon as Friday. A third leak was discovered, which government officials said is spewing five times as much oil into the water as originally estimated — about 5,000 barrels a day coming from the blown-out well 40 miles offshore.

If the well cannot be closed, almost 100,000 barrels of oil, or 4.2 million gallons, could spill

into the Gulf before crews can drill a relief well to alleviate the pressure.

Local officials expressed frustration with the pace of the government's response and the communication they were getting from the Coast Guard and BP officials.

"We're not doing everything we can do," said Billy Nungesser, president of Plaquemines Parish, which straddles the Mississippi River at the tip of Louisiana.

"Give us the worst-case scenario. How far inland is this supposed to go?"

Louisiana has opened a special shrimp season along parts of the coast so shrimpers can harvest the profitable white shrimp before the spill has an effect.

The spill has moved steadily toward the mouth of the Mississippi River and the wetland areas east of it, home to hundreds of species of wildlife and near some rich oyster grounds.

The rig, Deepwater Horizon, sank a week ago after exploding 36 hours earlier. Of its crew of 126, 11 are missing and presumed dead.

A fleet of boats working under an oil industry consortium has been using boom to corral and then skim oil from the surface.

A controlled test to burn the leaking oil was successful late Wednesday afternoon. BP was to set more fires after the test, but as night fell, there were no more

burns. No details have been given about when more fires are planned.

The decision to burn some of the oil came after crews operating submersible robots failed to activate a shut-off device that would halt the flow of oil on the sea bottom 5,000 feet below.

President Barack Obama has directed officials to aggressively confront the spill, but the cost of the cleanup will fall on BP, spokesman Nick Shapiro said.

Religious Directory

The Indiana Daily Student Directory of Religious Services in the Bloomington Area

Saturday, May 1

Calvary Baptist Church

Event: Mother's Day Celebration
Description: Reserve time on your calendar for this special event honoring Mothers. More details to follow next week.

Sunday, May 2

First United Methodist Church

Event: Children & Youth To Lead The Open Door Service
Description: The youth of the church will be leading worship at the Open Door on May 2. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come and support the youth of our church in worship!

Friday, May 7

Trinity Episcopal Church

Event: Friendship Day
Time: 11 a.m.
Description: Church Women United will be hosting May Friendship Day at Bell Trace. Cost is \$6.25. Reservations are due Today
Contact: Carolyn Sweeney, 336-4561

Religious Spotlight

Lifeway Baptist Church

7821 W. State Road 46

(812) 876-6072
www.lifewaybaptistchurch.org

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

College & Career SS Class: 9 a.m.
Morning Service: 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Barnabas Society: Every Thurs, 6-7 p.m.
Ballantine Hall Rm. 242
Everyone Welcome!

Kevin Albert, Pastor
Bro. Kimble Stohry, IU coordinator



African Methodist Episcopal

Bethel AME Church

302 N. Rogers Street (812) 334-3216
www.bethelbloom.com

Services:

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday Bible Study: 6 p.m.

The mission of the AME Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. Bethel, the oldest historically "Black" Church in Bloomington has a rich tradition of cultural diversity and loving care of students.

Rev. Patricia A. Efiom

Baptist

Calvary Baptist Church

3501 N. Prow Rd. (812) 332-3409
www.calvarybaptistbloomington.org

Sunday

Dig Deep Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration,
10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Calvary offers dynamic Bible driven worship celebrations and meaningful Bible studies addressing the challenges of today's college students. Surround yourself with friendly people, uplifting music, and find a home away from home. Grow in the word and build lasting friends in the Dig deep college class.

Jim Barr, Pastor
John Olivera, Youth Director
Chris Phillips, College Coordinator

Catholic

St. Charles Borromeo

Catholic Church
2222 E. Third St. (812) 336-6846
stcharlesbloomington.org

Sat.: 5 p.m. Mass.; 4-4:30 p.m. Confessions
Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon Mass
Monday: 8:30 a.m. Communion service
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Mass
Wed.: 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. (School Mass)
Thursday: 5:30 p.m. Mass
Friday: 10 a.m. Mass
Friday: Noon - 3 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration

St. Charles is a large faith community of about 1,200 families. We welcome Catholics of all ages to join in our liturgical worship. Interested in finding out more about the Catholic church? Contact us. We have a variety of ministries and invite you to live the Gospel with us.

Fr. William F. Stumpf, Pastor
Fr. Donald Davison, Parochial Vicar
Marc Kellams, Deacon
Susan Langham, Administrative Assistant
Janis Dopp, Dir. of Religious Education
Ed Langham, Dir. of Music

Episcopal (Anglican)

Trinity Episcopal Church

111 S. Grant St. (812) 336-4466
www.trinitybloomington.org

Wednesday: 7 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Thursday: 5:15 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 7:45, 9 & 11:15 a.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church is an inclusive and welcoming parish that celebrates its Christian faith through the beauty of its liturgy and music. We share in the sacraments, are challenged by a thoughtful and informed reading of the scripture, and seek to carry God's love into the world. Trinity cherishes all persons regardless of race, sexual orientation, social or economic status and physical abilities. We welcome all regardless of where they may be on their spiritual journey. There are simply no outcasts in the Episcopal Church, and everyone is welcome!

The Rev. Charlie Dupree, Rector
The Rev. Virginia B. Hall, Clergy Asst.
The Rev. Connie Pepler, Deacon

Episcopal (Anglican)

Canterbury House
Episcopal (Anglican) Campus
Ministry at IU

719 E. Seventh St. (812) 361-7954
www.indiana.edu/~canterbury
canterbury@indiana.edu

Weekly services at Trinity Church

111 S. Grant
Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 11:15 a.m.,
followed by free Chaplain's Brunch
and Fellowship Gathering.

Thursday: 5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist,
Followed by home cooked dinner and
Fellowship Gathering.

Monthly Service on First Sundays at Beck Chapel near the IMU. Holy Eucharist with music at 4:00 p.m., followed by Fellowship coffee hour

Episcopal (Anglican) Campus Ministry is a safe, welcoming and inclusive Christian Community; it is an inter-generational nesting place for all who pass through the halls of Indiana University. All people are welcome. All people get to participate. There are no barriers to faith or participation. There are no constraints - gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, country of origin, disability or ability, weak or strong. In the end, it's all about God's love for us and this world.

Please join us for these programs:
Tuesday: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Theology and Film Series at the ECM Office, 719 E. 7th St.
Thursday: 6:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner and Conversation in the Great Hall of Trinity Church, 111 S. Grant St.
Second Sunday of the Month: 5-7:30 p.m. Film Series and Food, ECM Office, 719 E. 7th St.
Opportunities are available for service projects, social gatherings, Bible study and retreats. Spiritual direction and pastoral counselling are available by contacting the chaplain

Mother Linda C. Johnson,
University Chaplain, lijohnso@indiana.edu

Free Methodist

Free Methodist Church

1121 S. Lincoln St. (812) 332-6425
bfmchurch@comcast.net
www.bloomingtonfreemethodist.org

Sunday: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Bible Study: Various studies during the week.

Students are cordially invited into a family atmosphere where a personal relationship with Christ and with one another are encouraged, as together we grow in our faith.

Melvin R. Nead, Senior Pastor
Zack Martin, Assistant Pastor
Lee and Sara Busick, Youth Directors

United Methodist

Fairview United Methodist Church

600 W. Sixth St. (812) 339-9484
www.bloomington.in.us/~fairview

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

At Fairview you'll find a warm welcome, opportunities to employ your gifts from God in service to church and community, and a spiritual home. Every few Sundays we dine out after worship, and the meal is on us. Once you're part of Fairview, you'll want to stay connected.

Rev. Curtis N. Hurley, Pastor
Rev. Diane Menke Pence, Deacon
Dr. Mellonee V. Burnim, Music Director

First United Methodist Church

Downtown at Fourth & Washington
(812) 332-6396 fumbcmail@fumbc.org
www.firstchurchbloomington.org

First Up Morning Celebration in the Church's Great Hall - 8:30 a.m.
Classic Worship Services in the Sanctuary 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
The Open Door Contemporary Worship at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater - 11 a.m.

George Purnell, Senior Pastor
Jennifer Stuelpe Gibbs, Associate Pastor
Mary Wilder Cartwright, Associate Pastor

The Open Door

Buskirk-Chumley Theater • (812) 332-6396
(Just East of the Square) • myopendoor.com
Service Hours: 11 a.m.

Whoever you are, The Open Door is a place you can worship and be yourself. Dress is casual, the coffee's hot and the "Common Ground" band is live. Brought to you by First United Methodist Church.

Jenifer Stuelpe Gibbs, Primary Pastor
George Purnell, Senior Pastor
Mary Wilder Cartwright, Associate Pastor

Assembly of God

Ellettsville First Assembly

115 W. Association St. (812) 876-4334
www.ellettsvillefirst.org

Sundays: 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Ellettsville First Assembly is a Christ-centered, Bible-based, spirit-filled family fellowship. We have been ministering in Monroe and Owen Counties since 1941 when the church was founded. We are part of a cooperation of churches known as the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the world's largest Pentecostal denomination with some 52 million adherents worldwide. It is our vision to model our church after the New Testament church and fulfill the commission of Jesus.

Doug Carter, Pastor
Ronnie Hinson, Youth Pastor

Bahá'í Faith

Bahá'í Association at IU

424 S. College Mall Rd. (812) 331-1863
www.bloomingtonbahai.org

Bahá'í Center Open House:
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Tue.-Fri.
Sunday Services:
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

"Laying the spiritual foundation for Peace and a global civilization..." based on the principles and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet Founder of the Bahá'í faith, 1817-1892.

Blair Johnson & Dan Enslow

Go Online to

www.idsnews.com/religious
for Expanded Listings
& Updated Event Information

Submit Your Religious Briefs by e-mailing idsmrktg@indiana.edu or faxing 855-8009, attention "Religious Briefs."

The deadline for next Friday's Religious Directory is Tuesday at 5 p.m.