



The Mustard Seed – Christmas 2005

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Christmas Reflections

Christmas seems to come so quickly every year. I've always loved Christmas; the lights on snow covered trees, the sweet aroma of freshly baked cookies, the traditional carols, the Christmas story, the joyful spirits of passersby on the streets, and being with friends and family. Living in Spain has caused me to create many different Christmas memories. But one thing remains - rejoicing in the birth of Christ with other believers, reminding me that Jesus really is the reason for the Season no matter where I am.



Spain Field Holiday Retreat – Jan 2 to Jan 5, 2006

Over the holidays this coming year, we have added an extra field retreat in order to do some work and to just spend time together, getting to know one another better. Our plan is to move ahead on a new 10 year vision document and to do activities like playing games, hiking, or simply talking and sharing around a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Please pray that this will be a productive, relationship building time for us as a field.



Ministry Year Vision Document

This ministry season brings a distinct focus to our lives. We continue to serve locally, discipling, teaching, and sharing our faith with friends around us. However, a greater part of our time will involve ministry within the wider World Team family in Spain. I (Jacob) have been appointed temporary field director, in the absence of Chris and Julie Faith (currently in the USA on Home Assignment). This particular year our team has chosen to move towards developing a 10 Year Vision Document. This challenge provides a tremendous opportunity to stretch in various areas!

World Team continues to challenge each of the fields to embrace four main values: The Gospel, Worship and Prayer, Interdependence, and Leadership Development. We desire to tailor our vision document to reflect these values. The biggest challenge for our team in Spain lies in the cultivation of interdependence as a team. Several hours of travel between ministry locations hamper interaction between team members and even more so between members of the respective church groups. However, lively discussion has started to spark great ideas on new initiatives that could address some of these problems.

My (Jacob) new assignment also affords a larger degree of interaction with other World Team fields and resource personnel. World Team's new leadership training track excites me, and challenges me to grow in leadership, as well as in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Please pray for us in these areas. We invite more of our support network to participate directly through prayer, through financial support, and through interaction as we take on these new challenges. Additional travel and communication costs present quite a challenge. We also look to God to provide wisdom as we juggle these new activities alongside local ministry commitments. The little group in Pozuelo shows promise of growth, but national leadership has not yet surfaced. We genuinely desire this as we look to establish a long-term church base in Pozuelo.



Christmas Blessings to all of you! Jacob and Karen, Megan and Carly