



The Mustard Seed – Winter 2006

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God Sightings!

Faith is being sure of what you hope for and it is certain of what we do not see...

We are entering 2006 with new expectations and hearts full of hope! I'd like to share several experiences from the last months in 2005 to help you see why!

Our field is preparing a 10 year Strategic Plan. During one of our planning sessions, God surprised us with an amazing open door of opportunity.

Breaking from our morning session, our group of 5 enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant. Observing us say table grace, the waiter (Antonio) identified us as Christians! We then found out that Antonio was not only the waiter, but the owner of the establishment! He shared with us that he was praying for a church to be started in the town of El Casar (where we were meeting). Quite surprised, I told him that we'd been meeting precisely to discuss new church planting locations and different ways God would have us get involved in new church planting initiatives! After lunch, Antonio showed us around his place, indicating that he would be willing to put it at our disposition should we need a place to meet at the outset of a new church plant!

This conversation led us to meet with another Spanish church in Madrid. This church already has people in place to begin church planting efforts in El Casar. However, they are wide open to us partnering with them as they pray and work to reach out to the 24,000+ people living in that area. February 26 we will meet in Antonio's restaurant with this church planting team and Spanish believers from the El Casar area to pray and discuss the options before us.

WE ARE SEEING GOD AT WORK!

TRANSITIONS

Even as we celebrate new opportunities that God brings our way, our family wrestles with other surprising changes that challenge our faith.

With the encouragement of a Spanish pastor and several missionaries, I challenged our small group to step out in faith to begin Sunday Services in Pozuelo. Everyone in our small group seemed positive and excited about this possibility. January 20, 2006, we decided, by God's grace, to launch out. By Sunday, January 22, 2006, a

significant group of people had communicated that they would NOT participate in the church launch! Well, without people, it's hard to begin a church! As a result, we have cancelled all meetings for the next month as we seek out God's direction for the next steps.

Interestingly, we are not discouraged by this strange turn of events. Again, we are convinced that God is moving in and around us. Obviously there are factors in this situation that we did not see clearly before. As the different people share why they cannot commit to serving in this new phase of our church plant, I am thankful that we did not get 2 months down the road before some of the personal issues came to light. It would have been MUCH more painful at that stage!

This sudden change could have some implications for our ministry. Should we continue on in Pozuelo but just focus on Field-wide initiatives? Should we re-locate? To what extent should we get involved in some of the new initiatives, like the El Casar opportunity mentioned above? Would relocation enhance our involvement in such initiatives? Our idea was to stay in Pozuelo at least until June of 2007, allowing Megan & Carly continuity in their schooling. What options best fit our family, the ministry, and God's desire to see more Spaniards in a vibrant relationship with Him?

Please be in prayer with us as we seek God's direction. We're excited about the direction we have received in the past. We're confident that God's direction and guidance for the future will be clear. This could be one of the most fruitful seasons that we've ever experienced during our time in Spain.

THANKS

We also want to express our THANKS to GOD for the new support that has come in since our last prayer letter. Several large gifts, a few new monthly support pledges, and some increased support pledges have improved our current financial situation. While we have not yet seen all the provision necessary to bring us to 100%, we appreciate the indications that God has given us to continue in this service, knowing that He WILL provide for all our needs, according to HIS riches in glory.

Desiring you a GREAT 2006!

Jacob, Karen, Megan and Carly Ginter