

December, 2009

Dear Friends,

It seems hard to believe that at the end of this week we will be celebrating Christmas. Our Christmas tree and decorations are up in our *new home* in Lloret de Mar. We now live an hour north of Barcelona and about one and half hours south of the French border. We have spent a few hectic weeks moving, attempting to combine and decrease the furnishings of two places into one. After some Herculean efforts on our and friends' parts, the place finally does feel like home (except for hanging a few pictures!).



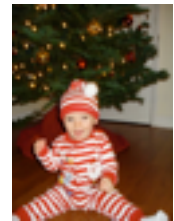
As we've headed into our pueblo (town) in search of bread or Internet access, we've been in awe of the beautiful Christmas lights here in Lloret. The lights are a great reminder during this Christmas season of Jesus, the Lord, that He is the light and Saviour to the world. We do have so much to celebrate and be thankful for, don't we?



Back in the States, Jeanna is in her sixth year as a high school Spanish teacher in Irvine. She has also taken on the Yearbook advisorship and is enjoying this new challenge. Her

students are so fortunate to benefit from her special talents and gifts.

Our other daughter, Bethany, and her husband Jeremy are still in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jeremy continues to work for the NBA Hornets and Bethany is thriving as a new mom. Our grandson, Cooper, will be turning one on January 24th. Jeremy and Bethany will be blessing us with a second grandbaby in May, 2010.



We have recently added the mentoring/discipleship of young leaders in Madrid to our list of responsibilities. We went to the capital in November to meet with an Argentine missionary couple in order to start the first half of the 25-hour Exchanged Life discipleship course with them. They are part of FamilyLife Spain in Madrid and are also starting a church in their town.



During our visit with them and their five children, we met with five other leaders/pastors in Madrid to present the idea of discipling some of their young leaders, who would then become the mentors within their churches. Since these were contacts from a friend and people we had never met, we were hoping that maybe two people would entrust their leaders to us. Instead, all five said YES!!!. So now we have the problem of finding enough time to fly Madrid to begin and complete this process. This is a fantastic predicament!! Please pray for a tremendous amount of wisdom and creativity in making this happen.



Our mentoring/discipleship ministry here in the Barcelona area continues to prosper. Will you join us in asking God for wisdom on how to continue to meet with those people we are mentoring in Barcelona, as well as our time and involvement with FamilyLife Spain and Western Europe? We are trying out the idea of heading into Barcelona three times per week as we now live an hour north of the city by train. Thankfully the train ride between Lloret and Barcelona is beautiful along the coast and we always have a place to sit so we can read, work on the computer and enjoy the trip. Please pray for continued adjustment to this new way of life and work!

We are excited to be heading up to *jolly old England* for six days over New Years. We will be spending time with friends there as well as seeing a musical in London. Lloret to Barcelona train riders beware; you may just hear us humming the tunes of *Wicked* on the train in 2010!

Even though we can't be there to deliver this message in person, please know that we wish each of you a very ...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Don and Joan

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