



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



GIRL TALK



Once again, it's almost Christmas Time! This is one of our favorite holidays of the year because...



We have no school for two whole weeks.

We get to decorate the Christmas tree.

We receive some gifts on Christmas and more gifts on the day of the Three Kings.

We visit lots of friends.

We listen to our favorite Christmas music and watch our favorite Christmas videos.

And even though all those things are so much fun, we also take special time to remember exactly why we celebrate Christmas.

When we set up the nativity scene in our house and play with the figurines, it reminds us how much God loves us. And we love to listen to and read and watch the story of Jesus' birth, over and over again.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL TO MUSTARD SEED – FALL 2005

Dear Friends:

I am writing an extra letter to explain a little about our financial situation.

While the new exchange rate on the Euro has improved our economic status substantially, we are currently experiencing a shortfall in our monthly income needs. Please allow me to explain.

World Team has asked Karen and me to take on more responsibility on a Spain-wide level within the context of our missionary team. This new responsibility adds considerable cost to our travel and communication budget. Therefore, in order to carry out our responsibilities well, we need to provide additional resources for the expenses involved. And just as the cost of living continues rising in Canada and the USA, so cost of living continues to rise in Spain. Finally, we have experienced a decrease in our support levels for various reasons.

In the spring of 2003, we sent out a request for additional support. I find it curious that we were in a similar situation at that point. We felt that ministry was really advancing, that God's plans were becoming clearer for us, and that doors of opportunity were opening. That is EXACTLY what's going on right now! Once again, this shortfall comes at a time when we are sure that God desires us to continue serving in Spain! Because of that, we've we have decided to inform our supporting constituency of our current situation rather than taking this as a "sign" that God wants us to move on.

The response to our last request for funds was very encouraging. Some of you sent in considerable one-time gifts, and some of you increased your monthly support pledges. Based on that response, and our immediate need, we invite you to consider one of the following options.

1. If you are not currently supporting us on a monthly basis, please consider beginning. (Again, additional monthly donations, ranging anywhere from \$25 per month to \$100 per month, would quickly fill the gap between our current income and our financial needs)
2. If you are currently supporting us on a monthly basis, and have not increased your giving since our initial year with World Team (1998), please consider an increase in your monthly giving. (an increase of \$10 per month per supporter would amply cover our needs)
3. If you prefer to give a one-time gift, we welcome you to consider contributing at this time.

Again, we want to express our thanks to all who have contributed to our financial support over the past 7 years. Thank you for your sacrificial giving and for your involvement in our lives as we seek to glorify God by working to establish reproducing churches in Spain. And thanks for taking the time to read this letter, and for considering further participation in this ministry!

Sincerely,
Jacob Ginter

P.S. To contribute, print the form below and mail to World Team, or contact our Canadian office at wt-canada@worldteam.org or our US office at wt-usa@worldteam.org



JACOB & KAREN GINTER SUPPORT

I would like to pray regularly for Jacob and Karen by:

- Receiving occasional e-mail prayer updates,
- Subscribing to their newsletter (ignore if already subscribing)

Yes, I/We would like give support to Jacob/Karen. Enclosed is:

- One-time contribution of \$_____
- Contribution of \$_____ per month with post-dated cheques for this amount
- Contribution of \$_____ per month with pre-authorized giving (see form on reverse).

Please make cheques payable to World Team

Gifts toward the ministry of World Team are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes. Spending of the funds is confined to Board approved programs, including remuneration of personnel and ministry expenses. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used with the understanding that when a given need has been met these designated funds will be directed where most needed.

[Please print]

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone: _____

Signature _____

Pre-Authorized Giving for Jacob/Karen Ginter

- I/We hereby authorize **World Team** to debit my/our account on the 3rd or 18th of each month until further notice.
- I/We enclose a void cheque
- I/We understand that I/we can:
 - Cancel at any time
 - Request a time limit on the plan
 - Change the amount by request at a later date
- I/We authorize **World Team** to issue me/us one annual receipt.

Bank Name: _____

Bank Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Branch #: _____ Transit #: _____

Account #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date: _____



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