



The Mustard Seed – Winter 2007

WORLD TEAM
7575 Danbro Cres.
Mississauga, ON L5N 6P9
Ph: 905-821-6300
Fax: 905-821-6325
Email: infocanada@worldteam.org

JACOB y KAREN GINTER
C/ Tahona N°5 4B, 1ªA
28223 Pozuelo de Alarcón
Madrid, España
Ph: 011-34-91-715-9203
Email: Jacob.Ginter@WorldTeam.org

Dear Friends and Family

We greet you in the unchangeable name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is in Him that we move and live and have our being. May this letter find you rejoicing in Him, regardless of the circumstances that make up your current days.

This letter is a little longer than the prayer letters you have received from us in the past. Part of that is due to the fact that we have not written for some time, and desire to update you on pertinent information. Part of this is also due to a desire to simply invite you to enter into our lives in a deeper manner. We need and rely on you, our support family. It's a privilege for us to share with you as we see God at work in and around us.

Vision

VISION can be defined as something that lies ahead of you that helps pull you forward. (taken from Don Ropp – fellow World Teamer)

While our team was still in the throes of preparing what we considered a stretching vision statement, our European leadership team challenged the Europe fields to pray and work towards seeing 3 church movements growing in Europe in the next 20 years! That challenge honed our own vision and pushed us towards more strategic multiplication efforts in areas where we already have influence. The vision to see 20 new reproducing communities of believers in the next 10 years pulls us forward! Spain will be different through the influence of these new communities!

Reflecting back on 2006, we have seen how God is working in our hearts to engrain values that serve to glorify Him and allow us to benefit in our relationship with Him. In 2004 World Team clarified 4 overarching values that we seek to live out.

The Gospel

If there's anything we want to "over-communicate" in our day and age, it's the Gospel. Paul wrote, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation..." We are not ashamed of the Gospel either! We are seeing the Gospel work its salvation power in our daily lives. As we share the Gospel with non-believers, encourage believers with the Gospel, and remind each other of the Gospel, we see God's salvation at work. The Gospel is true. The Gospel is reliable, and

the Gospel is available to all who will accept it. It is through the glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ that we have access to God, allowing us learn to enjoy the beauty of what we all have in Him. We are loved unconditionally. We have our sins forgiven. We are now "sons of God!"

Interdependence

If the Gospel is really all we need, interdependence is an amazing way to assure that we have what we need! Although I KNOW that I have all that I need in Jesus Christ, I FORGET frequently! As a result, I need the input of others into my life to remember what's important. I really need my wife, my team-mates, and my Spanish co-workers. The real amazing part is that they need me too! At times I'm the one reminding people of what we all have in Christ. At other times others are reminding me of that simple truth. But we need each other. There's no doubt about that!

Prayer and Worship

I really struggle here sometimes. That's why our annual prayer conference is such a boost for me! We celebrated a week of prayer and learning in June, 2006. Personally I have a lot to learn here. Regardless of outcomes or personal concerns, God is GOOD and His love endures forever. Praise, and a life of dependence on Him is always valid! One tool that has enhanced my prayer and worship this year is a book called "31 Days of Praise." I recommend it highly!

Training and Releasing Leaders

Our team has exciting options in this area! With a new vision building towards the concept of "A Seminary in Every Church" we have great hopes for the future. Ada Cook, one of our team-mates living in Béjar (Western Spain), has organized a survey that will give us insights into the felt needs of church leadership in our group of partnering churches. Based on this survey, and additional input through our stated values, our team will begin equipping leaders to move their churches towards health, growth and reproduction! As we plan to see new centres established, we'll need qualified leaders. I'm excited as we learn, grow, and serve together!

High Light Events in 2006

2nd Annual Spain Team Prayer Conference

Our team celebrated a focused time of learning and prayer in June, together with a group of people from



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Blacksburg Virginia and a friend from New York. One of the true highlights of the prayer conference was the time we spent with friends who serve an immigrant group in Western Spain. Experiencing the different traditions and praying for God's intervention in this vital ministry provided both challenge and encouragement.

Service and Evangelism on the "Camino de Santiago"

Our family joined the Tjernagels and Betsy Stoltzfus to serve in a unique centre in Northern Spain. Many pilgrims walk miles as part of a spiritual journey to Santiago de Compostela, in Spain's most North-western province of Galicia. "La Fuente del Peregrino" (Pilgrims Fountain) is a hospice service that offers free supper and lodging to pilgrims. Hearing people's stories, sharing our faith with others, and simply serving in practical ways (preparing meals, cleaning, laundry, etc) allowed for sweet times of fellowship as a team and family and provided an excellent outreach forum. We served there under the leadership of Rick and "Twinky" Satherwaite, missionaries serving with another organization in Spain.

Spain Team Retreat incorporating Spanish church Leaders

This fall our team moved in a new direction, incorporating Spanish leaders into the mix, and hearing a Spanish leader address the topic of "Interdependence" between mission agencies and local Spanish churches. We learned so much, and our relationships with many people surged forward in most encouraging ways! We truly expect to see greater levels of cooperation and significant advances for the Gospel of Christ in Spain as we learn to work together with this group of dedicated leaders and others who have yet to join us. God moves us in exciting directions!

Looking ahead - 2007

Upcoming Home Assignment

Our family is planning an extended Home Assignment beginning near the end of June. We have spent a total of 6 months in Canada since our arrival in Spain in 2000, and thus sense that it's time to re-connect with our supporting network and with our families on a more extended basis. In line with our team's goals and priorities, we will also actively work to encourage more people to consider ministry service in Spain. This visit

also allows Megan and Carly a year to experience the Canadian culture and educational system. Our plans are to make Guelph, ON our home base.

Ministry Location upon Return to Spain

In light of our wider team ministry responsibilities and our extended time in Spain, our family is considering several location options upon our return to Spain in 2008. We would invite you to be in prayer regarding this situation. While the wider team leadership continues to be Jacob's main focus, we would really like to form part of a local team. We would also like to participate in a new church plant but not be the principal leaders in that. Karen also desires to enlarge her sphere of ministry and service. Additionally, we need to seriously consider the social and spiritual needs of Megan and Carly as we contemplate all this. Finally, as our team looks to incorporate new members in the coming years, our placement could influence their location options. As you can see, there are many factors to consider as we look at this.

Personal Reflection



Peter John Duncan:

Nov. 9, 1935 – Oct. 22, 2006

Our family lost a real friend, a staunch supporter and encourager, a dear father and grandfather in October. We were all shocked to hear about the death of Karen's father, Peter Duncan. His loss is still felt keenly in our entire family. We have the joy and hope of knowing that we'll be reunited one day. However, the pain of our loss still often clouds our days. Thank you to the many who have offered encouragement. Thank you to many of you who helped us with the expenses of our unplanned trip to Ontario. We noticed the support of many during this time.

Prayer

We invite you to praise God with us as we reflect on His marvellous work over the past year. We also invite you to pray with us as we move into the challenges of this coming year. God is good, and His love endures forever!

Sincerely,

Jacob, Karen, Megan and Carly Ginter