

Wendel Update - 2010

A TIME FOR SOWING Although Elijah Peter, our 3rd child, never met Melanie's grandfather; to him he lived the perfect life. Simon Peter Ringenberg was a hard working farmer from Ohio, planting corn, soybeans, and wheat and to add to the family income also worked at the nearby General Motors factory. Growing things in the dirt and building cars; a nine year olds dream come true! So, this summer we grew corn and watermelon on the balcony of our apartment. We know these plants need acres of rich Ohio farmland to spread out, but to Elijah, a little bit of dirt in a trash can was good enough to be a farmer.



We are in our next to last quarter "lap" before our home ministry assignment begins next July 2011. This is the lap when you look back at what you have already run and eye how much further till the finish line. Something that isn't that easy to measure. Since arriving to Spain in 2001 most of our work has been in the area of soil preparation. Seems like a waste of time? Not when you consider what's at stake. The soil of people's hearts we have encountered over these years for the most part could be described as cynical, pessimistic, skeptical, nihilistic, apathetic, materialistic and betrayed. (We could be describing the United States.) You can't drop a seed of the gospel into this soil and expect instant growth and fruit. Ask Elijah's great grandfather, soil that has not been prepared can't receive a seed and produce fruit.



CHURCH LIFE Our work as church planters is far from done. We and others continue to plant seeds. The church our team planted, The Christian Community Church of Tres Cantos, celebrates its fourth birthday this year. Where are we? On a worship Sunday our Christian fellowship can range between 30-60 persons, our two local leaders, Brigitte and Jose Antonio, have been growing in their leadership roles, and a tremendous highlight this year was the celebration of eight baptisms, two of whom recently came to faith in Jesus. That's what we call a bumper crop! However, our outreach to the community during the year can extend well beyond 200. This is because we realize that soil is prepared in the field and not in the greenhouse (a church building). Each person has their own story and just to see various ones soften or wrestle with issues of faith amazes us. And we realize that we may never know when that seed takes hold.

How do you prepare human soil? That's a good question. The best answer is through incarnational-relational ministry: leaning into people's lives by being real, available, speaking truth in love and pointing them to the Savior. Growth is slow and disappointment is ever present but it's all worth it. We continue to sow seed and like the farmer, we have learned that growth doesn't depend upon us. We leave that in the hand of the One who sends the sun and the rain and saves the soul, our great God.

Specifically we see the soil among the children the most ready to receive the Gospel and grow. Through a Boys Club, Girls Club and *Godly Play* we are delighted to see Jesus and His Word come alive to these young children. This Fall the church will host a parenting class lead by colleagues and in the Winter we will lead the third installment of *Love & Respect*, a marriage class for couples.

CAMP LIFE This year also marked our 7th English Camp which received a visit from our city's mayor during graduation ceremonies. There were 126 campers taught and loved by 40 wonderful teachers who lived in 35 Spanish homes, assisted by 25 Tres Cantos youth during camp and cheered along by 20 moms who participated in the ladies English craft/class. Ten new people visited church during camp and one of the most exciting things to see was how our visiting teachers shared Jesus in word and deed with their hosts and our city. Around 15 children and youth participate in church related ministries as a direct result of the camps. Not all have come to Christ but they are clearly in a position and place of blessing. Another very interesting hybrid that has resulted from English Camp are the moms who meet on Friday mornings throughout the school year at our center to practice English, cook and bake and who last year studied a book on anxiety. These moms of our summer English students crave connection and find it through conversation and a craft. Our obvious prayer is that they would soon meet Jesus. We have our dates set for English Camp 2011 (July 4-15) and ask for your prayers and participation. Please visit our website for more information if you are interested in coming: www.globalventuresSPAIN.org





A NEW PAD After 2 years of struggling to make our previous center “work”, God directed us to another center which was exactly what we had been dreaming of. You may remember receiving a brochure about **The Beautiful Square Feet Campaign** (\$12 buys 1 square foot of life changing ministry space). This was a push to raise the necessary funds to remodel and condition space for a new ministry center which serves the needs of our NGO (Global Ventures – SPAIN) and local church (CCTC). A big thank you to all who have given and prayed. Presently \$2396 has come in from our \$25,000 goal.



FAMILY LIFE A highlight for our children this summer was watching the country go absolutely crazy when Spain took 1st place in the World Cup. Every fountain in our town was filled with happy fans splashing others and themselves in celebration.



In spite of the soccer hype, Timothy, Nathanael and Elijah would rather follow in their Dad's lay-ups and play basketball. They all did very well on their respective teams, including their Dad, who had to cheer his team on from the sidelines following a 2nd meniscus repair. Olivia is still dancing ballet and hopes to learn Flamenco this year but is most excited when she can make her little body flip and twist and spring in gymnastics. We truly thank the Lord for our children as we

see them growing and at times making difficult decisions among their friends in taking a stand for Christ. We continue to pray for protection from the enemy and tender hearts towards Christ.

This year also marked two important celebrations in our families. In July, Melanie's parents celebrated their Golden Anniversary and Tim's parents in September. **That's 100 years of marriage!** What a rich heritage we have inherited from these lives.

Thank you SO MUCH for your continued giving to the **GREAT COMMISSION FUND**, our source of funding, which provides the resources together with your prayers to plant a church in Spain.



Tim and Melanie Wendel
 (Timothy 13, Nathanael 11, Elijah 9 and Olivia 7)
 Sector Descubridores 33-1-IZDQ
 28760 Tres Cantos (Madrid) SPAIN
 011.34.91.804.1098 (home phone)
wendel_spain@yahoo.com



The Christian & Missionary Alliance
 P.O. BOX 35000
 Colorado Springs, CO 80935-3500
 Tel. 719.599.5999
www.cmalliance.org