

May 2017

# Straight back to the Strait

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

- Joshua 1:9

Hello friends,

We write our **farewell** to you all from San Quintin, Mexico. JD just preached his last sermon of this furlough in Sara's hometown church. The whole congregation came forward at the end of the service to wish us well on our next chapter in Spain. It was hard not to shed some tears at the outpouring of love and support. It is always bittersweet when we have to leave our loved ones to go to our mission field overseas.



Our family being prayed over in San Quintin, Mexico.

In the next few days, we will be saying our good byes to our family and flying back to Spain from Los Angeles International

Airport, on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Furlough Highlights.** We were given the blessing of living in the Trinity Church's Mission House in Redlands, CA. Having that home as our anchor from late August until early May, it enabled us to plan full days of ministry and visits in Southern

California, and also extensive deputation plans to be able to share our vision with the most churches, supporters and loved ones as possible. Having a warm bed to return to definitely made a big difference. This has been an unrepeatable deputation time, as our daughters will never be this small again, to be able to travel throughout the school year. So being conscious of this opportunity we marched our way through 26 states, with over 16,000 road miles, while sharing everywhere we could our vision and *prayer cards*.

**Family Life Cycles.** When we returned on furlough we never imagined some of the changes that could take place over a few months. When we arrived, our most enthusiastic supporter, Sara's grandmother Sarah Ruth Poppe, was ecstatic to see us and to catch up before we left on our tour. Little did we know that she would suffer a devastating stroke as we returned from a 2 ½ month tour and would be unconscious by the time we got to see her again. Grandma Poppe went to Heaven on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Grandma was a wholly devoted prayer warrior, whose life calling was to cover in prayer all of her family, friends and many others she came in contact with. Many of us can feel the big void left by her departure, so we thank all of you who have committed to pray for our family and ministry, and we also would like to reach out to others and ask if you would please consider praying for us, and maybe even fasting, as we head to an area that has been under the dominion of Satan. Thankfully, the sorrow of the death of our beloved grandmother was mitigated with the birth of



Sarah Ruth with her namesake, Sarah Ruth Poppe (a.k.a. Great-Grandma), during our last visit with her.



"Fresh out of the oven", our little nephew David Alejandro.



Sarah Ruth and Abby with their local friends in San Quintin, Mexico.

our nephew, David Alejandro, born to Sara's sister Lucy on Mother's Day. It was a big blessing, especially for Sara and the girls, to be able to welcome the baby before going back to Spain. So we bless the name of the Most High as He gives and takes away.

**Straight to the Strait.** As we set our eyes on our new mission assignment in Spain, we can identify with the Apostle Paul, looking forward to seeing old friends on his way to preach the Gospel there. By the time you read this, we will probably also be re-united with old friends, as we will have returned to Andalucia. We can also imagine Paul choosing to target an area like *Campo de Gibraltar*, as it is an incredibly strategic crossroads of Europe and Africa, where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean. Los Barrios is also a busy crossroads within Spain, a place where people from all nations can hear the Gospel. Paul wrote in Romans 15:24: *"Whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you."*



Friends, please keep in prayer our upcoming term of service in Spain, in which we will be seeking to plant a church that will reach and teach disciples of all nations, that

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- For providence in finding a place to live in Los Barrios.
- For our needs to be met regarding moving, settling, and church-planting expenses.
- For our marital, spiritual and emotional health, as we embark on this spiritual battle to raise the banner of Christ in Los Barrios.
- For our daughters, Sarah Ruth (5 yrs.), and Abigail Mae (22 mo.), as they deal with the long travel and transitioning back to Spain, having to leave dear family and friends behind.

will equip a generation to be actively serving the greater Los Barrios area, and purposefully training locals to be involved in missions. Please pray for the residents of the unreached town of Los Barrios and its surroundings, to have their hearts ready to come near to God.

Please continue to pray for the challenges ahead for our family in the coming weeks. Pray for all the logistics of returning to Spain: Choosing what to pack, making connections, not forgetting things in California, transitioning into our temporary housing, finding long-term housing, moving into the new home, setting up utilities and phones, etc.

Once settled in our new home, we will then be prayerfully seeking to rent a store-front to serve as our new church plant and ministry center in the city of Los Barrios. A store-front will give us a visible presence in Los Barrios and a ministry space to invite locals to, for Bible studies, prayer times, and community service and outreach activities. Please pray that the Lord will guide us to the best part of the city for establishing this outreach. Just this month, in early May, The Tentmakers Board approved a new ministry fund for our work, for receiving building funds. It is called the



**LOS BARRIOS SPECIAL FUND.**

As you can read, our new adventure is a little daunting, so we truly appreciate and covet your prayers and support, both moral and financial. Thank you!

Serving with you,

JD, Sara, RUTH & SARAH, and Abigail

**WAYS TO GIVE.** During our deputation, we had the ambitious and necessary goal of raising an additional \$2,800 in monthly support towards our family, ministry and building needs, as we had a deficit for being under supported during our last appointment besides the additional needs associated with the new ministry center. From that goal we were able to raise \$925 a month in new support for our work and family needs, and have about \$1,000 pledged for the building fund for when we get back to Spain, leaving us with a shortage of \$875 a month. Will you prayerfully consider if you can support our ministry in this tangible way?

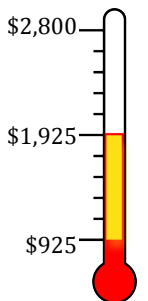
You can send any tax-deductible support for our regular ministry and family needs to:

*Tentmakers Bible Mission "Andalucia Project"*  
 PO Box 160, LaGrange, WY 82221

(Please make check payable to TBM and write *Andalucia Project* on the memo line of the check.)

For donations towards our new **church-plant special fund**, to help towards **renting a building, preparing it** to be used as a ministry space, **utilities** and for the **maintenance** of this commercial space, please send your donations to the same address but write: **LOS BARRIOS SPECIAL FUND**, in the memo line of the check. *This fund is only for building needs.*

If you would like to set-up automatic electronic transfers please contact the TBM Office at 307-223-9400 or go online for more details – <http://www.tentmakersbiblemission.org/getinvolved/donate/eft>.



**Fundraising Goals**