

**The Bennett's serving in Campo de Gibraltar, Spain**



*By this we know love, that He laid down his life for us,  
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 1 John  
3:16*





Dear \_\_\_\_\_ friends!

**Isn't this the season for walking into** a drug-store and seeing heart shaped boxes with chocolates and value packs of valentines and personalized love notes that come complete with music when you open it? Well this Sunday we took advantage of this season to teach our family a lesson about love. We began with a hunt for paper hearts that were hidden around our living-room. Once our girls had found them, we read the Bible verses written on the hearts one by one, on half the hearts there was a Scripture reference and on the corresponding heart we had a summary of the verse (as our daughters are 2 and 5 years old!). As we read each verse, our girls hugged themselves when we said the word *love*, and they pointed to heaven

Sara and I smiled at each other and laughed nervously, as there were tons of answers we could both give our pastor and old friend (at least cliché answers). I realized the direction to take in answering his question, was the personal part of the question, to the relationship between my soul and my Creator. **I won't give** all our conversation away, (It was a good one.) but we can know that Creator God knows us dearly, when we love Him. In 1 Corinthians 8:3 Paul affirms our insecurities of being loved: *But the one who loves God is known by God.* My daughter is a month away from turning 6-years-old. That is exactly the age I was when my earthly father abandoned me. The Lord knows me and my wounded heart, since that day my Daddy **didn't**

when we pronounced *God*. By the end of reading and teaching them through 1 John 4:7-11 and 1 John 3:16, our daughters, who are very small still, knew how great the **Father's love was for them**. The lesson had stuck. This last week our **mission's pastor from Redlands, California** came to see us here on the tip of Spain. He asked us a very interesting question over dinner: *Why does God love you? What does He love about you?*

come home, and these 31 years since then. He knows John David, the little boy who got picked on at school, who was insecure and got picked last for football and soccer. God knows the void He himself filled in my heart, very vividly and profoundly, when I was still very small. It may be for that reason that sometimes if I speak on the **Father's love for us**, if I refer to 1 John 3 & 4, tears still come to my eyes. Because He loves us indefinitely more than we can know or measure, and the Father knows how much that LOVE has meant the world to little old John David Bennett.



*Above left: It starts at home. Sarah Ruth and Abigail celebrate their finished craft on 1 John 4:7-11.*

*Top right: John David with his mother and sister, circa 1989.*

# Today, Let Us Love One Another.

*Progress at the Ends of the Earth.*

## Church-planting and Discipleship

The foundations of our church plant: Iglesia Evangélica Agua Viva (Living Water Evangelical Church) have been under way for about a year now, and here in the new year we have made a transition from a weekly prayer meeting in our home (where we invited other Christian leaders and believing friends) to our Weekly Bible Study in the Gospel of John, where we are seeking to invite our neighborhood contacts. JD has been doing a gospel tract mailbox campaign in the 4 towns that belong to the Los Barrios Municipality: Cortijillos, Palmones, Guadacorte and Puente Romano. Our web presence has also brought people into contact with us and our church plant has about 100 followers online.

Sara gives a weekly discipleship course to a lady who lives on our street. It has been such a mutual encouragement, for this lady to grow in Christ and for Sara and JD to be able to feel useful discipling her each week. There is also an 84-year-old man who walks to our Friday night Bible Study each week. It has been a tremendous blessing to our family to have found people who want to be spiritually fed on the very street where the Lord gave us a rental home.

### Progress with Not-yet believers.

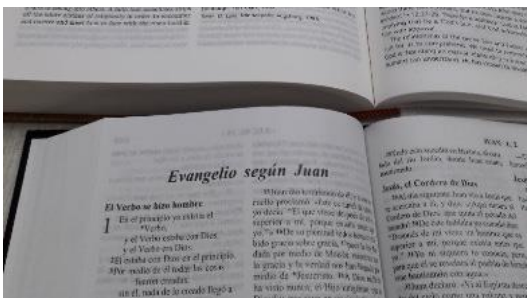
JD has been working on being a witness to a few local men. One man, who is an army officer close to retirement, enjoys conversing with JD about our faith in Christ and the Evangelical church whenever they see each other, so JD got up the courage in January to take him a gift of a new Bible and a 2018 Our Daily Bread Devotional, knowing that it might end the friendship. Our friend was surprised and gracious, and has since told JD that he reads one page of the Daily Bread now each morning, as he says he likes that the devotional is short and interesting. Other neighborhood friends talk with JD each day as they walk their kids to school and pick them up and as we see each other around town. A few families accepted **an invitation to drive across town for Sara's surprise birthday party in December.** So Sara was indeed surprised to see almost 20 new friends **who we didn't even** know six months ago.

Sara has a growing number of relationships with other mothers from the neighborhood who have included her into their world as Sarah Ruth and Abigail get socially integrated with the other kids. Yesterday, for example, Sara received a

string of local text-messages from other mothers when they heard that Sarah Ruth, like other neighborhood kids, had gotten lice. (Our poor daughter got lice for God's glory!) Please pray for these friendships to open the way for clear sharing of the Gospel to local people who have an ear to hear.

### Local African Outreach

We have been able to make a good networking connection with a group who do strategic outreach to African children. JD now has a regular routine for picking up Arabic speaking children for activities. One of our objectives was to teach mission by example, and we had a neat opportunity recently. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the Spanish coordinator lady pulled JD aside after she found out that our family drove back to the city from a Sunday afternoon picnic in the country to pick up and drop-off the **M-background children for the “reading club” that afternoon. This lady wanted to tell JD that our decision to come back from the countryside early for the kids left a young Spanish college student who was helping her speechless when he saw the example that was set. She said this is the kind of lesson we need to teach young Spanish Christians. Advancement of Christ’s kingdom requires sacrifice and inconvenience.**





Each Friday we host a Bible Study on the Gospel of John around our dining room table.

*For who has despised the day of small things?*

*-Zechariah 4:10*

#### The Search for a Ministry Space

We are seeking to plant a missionary-minded church in Los Barrios, that will include a ministry center for beginning a number of outreach ministries immediately.

We hope to offer kids clubs, senior adult meetings, English conversational groups, Bible studies and discipleship meetings- All of these kinds of activities with the goal of leading these precious, unreached neighbors to a saving relationship with the Lord. The commercial space would also give us a place from which to invite people to begin attending our church-plant services and every activity that could be included in body-life in an evangelical church.

So far our mission, Tentmakers Bible Mission, has a building fund open for this purpose, the Los Barrios Special Fund. We have received some special gifts that would help us to make a deposit down payment and get it in running conditions, however we still don't have monthly commitments to the fund yet, to help with the month to month costs which is keeping us from signing a lease contract. If we were to rent this space, we need to raise over 620 Euros (\$756.40 USD) a month for our building project to cover renting the building and utilities.

If the Lord is calling you to partner in this very tangible way, please LET US KNOW soon, as this will help us know if we are ready to move forward in this church planting step.

You can send tax-deductable support, designated for *Los Barrios Special Fund* to:

***Tentmakers Bible Mission "Los Barrios Special Fund"***

*PO Box 160, LaGrange, WY 82221*

(Please make gifts payable to TBM and write *Los Barrios Special Fund* on the memo line of the checks.)

Online Giving to our building needs:

<https://tentmakers.webconnex.com/giving/europe>

and select: *Los Barrios Building Special Fund*.





# PRAY FOR LOS BARRIOS

AGUA VIVA  
CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR



We continue to be surprised by the effectiveness of a transmission device that we are using here in Los Barrios, and around the ports, that allows foreign and local travelers to receive and download Scriptures and audio-Bibles and other resources onto their cell phones.