



We won't argue with you if you claim it's been a fairly weird year.

"I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:18b-19

Dear friends and loved ones,

The end of 2020 was truly a difficult trial for us. We had the challenge of transitioning to the U.S. during a pandemic, emptying our rental home during rainy season and during a municipal lockdown. It's hard to put into words how weird our last month on the field was. We have never taken to the phrase "If it doesn't kill you,

it'll make you stronger." As far as our move back to the U.S. for furlough goes, the phrase might hold weight. We underwent quite the operation to start furlough: downsizing, packing, roadblocks and rain. Our daughters have learned to make lots of life adjustments. Today, they are making new friends in a new country, going to a new Christian school, where their schooling is a new language (Ok, it was just changing from Spanish to English). Out of the hardship we lived through those last weeks while we were moving, has come an even greater ability to give praise to the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

God amazed us so much, with some old friends preparing our missionary apartment for us. We opened the door of the apartment to find it warmly decorated for Christmas. Everything was thoughtfully prepared for us to arrive, very different from what Joseph and Mary encountered upon their arrival in Bethlehem (Luke 2:7). In our case, our daughters saw first-hand how our God provides for all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. This spirit of gratefulness has continued all this month as we thank Him for all the ways he helps us at border crossings and on the first day of starting a new school. In all these things we have seen the tangible shield of God go before us, making a way forward for us in this weird new year.

Remembering Partners of this Ministry.
"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the
death of his saints." Psalm 116:15



"Grandma" Eunice McLeish was a friend and an adopted "grandmother" to Sara for over 30 years. She visited the El Buen Pastor Hospital compound where Sara grew up in Baja very frequently in the 1980's and 90's. Since Sara moved to Spain in 2011, Grandma Eunice always made sure we came to share a meal with her and her siblings when we were back in Southern California. She went home to heaven while we were flying back to the U.S. on December 14th.



Remembering Jackie Hahn

Jacqueline Hahn (bottom right) has been a friend and an example to our family going back about 50 years. Jackie and her husband Pastor Ray were very influential in building and supporting the El Buen Pastor Hospital in Mexico, and that especially included their love and involvement in the lives of Dr. Alejandro & Ruth Gonzalez, in Sara's life and by 2010, in JD's life too. Jackie was a steady example of Christian character to Sara all the days that she lived. Jackie was involved in our wedding and she even came to visit us in Spain in 2013. Always an evangelist, two days before she went to heaven, she asked the doctor treating her in San Diego if he knew Jesus. She went home to the arms of her Savior this January at 94 years old.

Praying for the Spanish church to be strong and courageous as we adjust to home assignment in the USA.



For those who were wondering what the easiest way to give to this ministry, you might find this online giving link helpful.

Online giving for Andalusia Project:

<https://tentmakersbiblemission.givingfuel.com/andalucia-project>



We celebrated an early Christmas at JD's mom's house, and Sara's brother Salomon brought his family, too, to celebrate with us in Banning. (Top right, Uncle Salomon plays the piano with Abby and Adi. Top Left: Cousins Abrilita and Aileen enjoy a lunch with our girls in Baja.) On December 23rd we took road trip down to Baja to celebrate with Sara's parents. Her father has been quarantined at home since March, since he is very high-risk for Covid infection, so even traveling home for the holidays required lots of disinfecting and precautions. (Bottom: Cousins Adi, Fufi, Harmony and Abby celebrate at JD's mom's home.)



Abby's Digestive problems:

As many of you know, it has taken about a year to get to the bottom of Abby's digestive problems. We were able to do a phone consultation with Abby's digestive specialist in Spain to find out the results from her endoscopy and she has been diagnosed with Eosinophilic Esophagitis. This is a chronic, allergic condition in the esophagus which thankfully can be controlled and treated. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as they try to figure out which is the best treatment for her.



Abby and Sarah Ruth love their Christian elementary school in El Cajon, CA. As missionaries we learn the lesson that when you go without for a long time, life's blessings are even sweeter when you get them. We are incredibly grateful that our girls received scholarships to attend this wonderful, biblical school in person this semester, and also, that Sara received her scholarship to study across the street at Southern California Seminary.



JD, with Southern California Seminary and the dorms that JD lived in from 1999-2000 in the background. It wasn't that many years ago that JD would have to walk to a call-center in Spain to call long-distance to the offices at Southern California Seminary. It is amazing how many calling options we have 10 years later. Today, JD passes his alma mater 5 or 6 times a week.

Now that we are back in the US, we would like to visit with all of our ministry partners and prayer supporters. If you would like to visit by phone or in person, our new numbers are:

JD: 909 808 9576
Sara: 619 750 1250
our email is: john.david.bennett@msnway.com



All our love,
JD, Sara, Sarah Ruth & Abigail Mae Bennett