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CHAAYA

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News From The . . .

Chaaya's



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A Barcelona Baby!

April/May 2009

Dear Friends and Family,

Many of you have been praying for us in the past month, and particularly for our team and leadership as we determine where we should live and start the work among N. Africans here in Spain. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!** After months of researching, discussing, praying, and, most recently, a 10 day "sight seeing" trip to the immigrant areas of Barcelona and Madrid, the decision has been made. **This summer our team will relocate to the greater Barcelona area!** We are excited and grateful — for God's leading, for our leadership team, and for your prayers for us. The road ahead will require flexibility, grace, energy and perhaps above all, God's intervention. **Please continue to pray** for these things in our



lives as we find housing, get packed, make the transition, and then get settled into a new home and neighborhood.

In addition to this news, we are also happy to share with you that **Joanna is expecting our second child!** She is due in October, and soon we will find out whether we will be having a "Barcelona girl" or "Barcelona boy." As Emily Hope has reminded us with her rapid entrance into toddler-hood and her almost daily developments in speech, life passes so quickly, and before we know it, she will no longer be "the baby" but rather the "big sister!"

For those of you that have stood in prayer and partnership with us from the beginning of our journey to Spain, you may be having a sort-of "*deja vous*" sensation. ☺ Well, you're not alone! Almost two years ago we left the U.S. with tearful goodbyes, began the search for a home in Granada, began Spanish language study, and prepared to receive Emily Hope. Now we are leaving Granada with bittersweet farewells, with another apartment search underway, with a period of learning about ministry to N. African immigrants ahead, and with the expectation of receiving our second child. One might wonder, "**How can you go through this again?**" But in all honesty, "How can we NOT?" The thirsty lives of thousands of Ms. Immigrants cry out for a drop hope, an eternal hope that will not leave their souls parched in the desert of Islam, but quenched by the River of Jesus himself. **We carry this River of Life . . . How can we keep it to ourselves?** It is bubbling over, bursting, even raging to reach and touch the dry hearts of these msms. Pray for us as we go to those who are society's fringe and bring them to Jesus, the eternal source of refreshment. **Pray** that we will meet them; **pray** that we will guide them unashamedly; and **pray** that they will drink of Him. (Read Martin's account on the second page of meeting 3 of these thirsty individuals.)

The road ahead will bring many changes to our lives, but just as He has led us and faithfully provided in the past, so we trust Him for this new venture as well. We do depend on your prayers and **thank you for being a vital part** of His provision to us through your intercession, gifts, and encouragement.

With love and thanks for you each!

Martin, Joanna, Emily Hope,

&

Little One CHAAYA

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Praise & Prayer

1. We passed the DELE!
This was the exam testing the sufficiency of our Spanish acquisition. We continue to learn, but are thankful for the achievement of this milestone.
2. Praise God for His protection, leading and grace as we drove over 3,000 kms and spent well over 30 hours in the car over the last few weeks!
3. Joanna's started driving classes. Remember when Martin was studying for this a year ago? Well, now it's her turn! Pray that she'll pass before we leave Granada!
4. Baby Chaaya #2 would appreciate your prayers as his/her development takes place. We're at the 1/2 way point in the pregnancy!
5. Please pray for all the details of the move (for us and our teammates, too!) Packing, finding an apartment, driving, meeting new neighbors, getting settled, etc.

SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE IN SPAIN . . .



Martin attended a conference in Paris at the end of April which provided opportunities for meeting with ms. immigrants who have come to faith in Christ as well as others who are working in this sphere of ministry.



We recently held our annual field forum (with all the other CMA workers in Spain), and enjoyed times of spiritual refreshment as well as strategic reviews. We are thankful to be part of a larger team working together to bring people to Jesus.



From the desk of Martin: Although I have been on the road for three weeks and have put 3115 km. on the car, I had the opportunity to connect with and share the Gospel with 3 Moroccans. Two of them are men I approached while I was waiting on the Barcelona train to arrive. At the beginning of the conversation I found out that they were “Sousi Berbers” (or “Sousi Amazighen,” as they say). I said, “Oh yes! You are the ‘free men.’” (That is what “*Amazighen*” means and they definitely prefer that term to the foreign introduced term “*Berber*.”) They were amazed that I knew about their culture. When they found out that I am from Lebanon they asked if I was a Christian, which opened the door to witness to them on the train. I challenged them to read the Bible, and they said that they would like it if I could send them a copy. Their names are Ahmad and Ali, and I believe that they are sincerely interested in knowing more. ~ The other opportunity was with a young, single lady that was introduced to us by a fellow IMB worker while in Madrid. When I found out that her grandfather was Lebanese I asked her if he was a Christian; this simple question opened the door to clearly share the Gospel. Her name is Kawthar. Please be praying for her, that the Lord would open her eyes to see the truth.

“For He is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance.”