

First Year in Barcelona!

My beloved friends, this month I got to celebrate my first full year of ministry in Spain. This has been made possible by Jesus and all of you who've prayed and supported me. THANK YOU!

I have felt your prayers and cannot thank you enough for the love you've shown me along each step of the way. God's working in mighty ways here so let's press on and go reach the nations TOGETHER.



Barcelona Story

One of the bi-weekly rhythms as a church and team here is going out to share the gospel in the streets. The picture above is from one of our outings this month. This is how we met Virginia, the woman in brown pants next to me. About two years ago she was sitting on a bench feeling hopeless over her daughter's illness. Since then, she's turned from her New Age beliefs and fallen in love with Jesus. When I arrived a year ago, God gave me the opportunity to continue the work of discipling her, « teaching her to obey everything Jesus' has commanded us ». Meeting weekly, sharing meals, running errands together, praying for her family and also modeling for her how to share Jesus with people in the streets. On our most recent outing, I was astounded in witnessed her growth. I watched Virginia connect with a Catalan lady and lovingly point her to Jesus when she expressed worry over her own daughter. Right after, she felt led to approach a Muslim lady from Morocco, who not only wanted to hear the gospel that day, but gave us her contact so we could meet again to read Scripture together. Praise God for the work He's doing in her as she's quickly becoming a bold evangelist and winning the rest of her family for Christ! Now, I'm discipling her daughter as she prepares to get baptized this year!

Answered Prayer and Praises

- *My first year in Barcelona* has included communally and regularly: sharing the gospel in the streets; personally baptizing someone for the first time, discipling the women in the house church that branched out (multiplied) from the group I first met in 2022; supporting each of the three families from our team have their first child (I'm a proud auntie!); fasting and prayer walking (photo below) in different points of the city; improving my cooking as a way to love others; training leaders and supporting churches in different parts of Spain; and connecting with other ministries in Barcelona and across Europe like in France, Greece and the Netherlands.
- *Gospel conversations with salsa.* Salsa dancing has been a side hobby for years. One that the Lord has used here to connect me to a community of young people. This month I'll be wrapping up a small Bible study with a few of them focused on understanding the narrative of the Bible. Pursuing gospel conversations with them in and out of the Bible study has led to some really beautiful and honest relationship building opportunities to introduce them to the relational Jesus of the Bible.
- *Our little home in Raval.* Our new lease for renting another year in our flat has been signed and the details worked out, which is such a God gift since it was a wrestle to navigate. This also means we can continue to host people in our home, be walking distance from the other families from our team, and continue to cultivate the local relationships we feel God's placed around us. Thinking only of our building, we have neighbors from Morocco, Bangladesh, Albania, the Netherlands and different parts of Spain (including some Catalan folks). All these people come from least-reached areas, so we have a wonderful opportunity to be salt and light!
- *The gift of the family of God...* This year I've faced my share of culture shock, team-dynamic adaptation, mild but very regular sickness (skin issues, insomnia, throat infections, colds etc.), and other normal challenges for an initial year in the field. I thank God for how He's allowed me to see His faithful care and for providing me with a solid community of friends who I now consider family.





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Updates and Challenges

- This first year I came using a student, but moving forward I have the opportunity to switch to a religious visa. This application has to be done from Mexico, so I am flying back at the very end of June (and celebrating my 30th birthday there!). Switching visas will be better long term for applying for residency, but right now it requires a process that can take 2-3 months minimum. As with many other visa applications, the hunt for all the papers, appointments and payments can be tough. So please pray for God to open doors and make a straight path for me to get back.
- My flatmate and friend, Lydia, just got back from support raising in the States is also in process of renewing/changing her visa. She plays a huge role in my life, our team, and the work here so please join us in praying for guidance and provision.
- Pray for our community. As a group, in 2024 we've faced a lot of spiritual warfare and hardships. A woman on our team has lost her father recently, and several of our families are dealing with important changes in family dynamics, finances and work.
- Since I'm planning to be in Mexico from July till mid-September, I am praying about possibly making a trip to the States and visiting a few cities to reconnect with many of you in person.



Meet the team! Picture above, left to right: Pao, Julia and John Mann plus baby Theo, Tony and Emily Arcangelini plus baby Eliana, Joe and Ashley Hindy plus baby Ezequiel, and Lydia

