

## Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

*From Madrid, Spain...*

*The air is filled with the smell of roasted chestnuts and glaze covered nuts.*

*The entire downtown Madrid is lit with Christmas Lights. We recently heard the city has the largest Christmas lights display in all of Europe. Christmas is definitely around the corner. "The Three Wise Men" or "Kings Day" bring gifts on January 6 and it is not too soon to start writing letters to let them know you have been good this year and what you want to see under the tree on Kings Day morning. My girls have to choose between receiving their Christmas gift on Christmas day or waiting until Kings Day and have a gift to open that morning with the rest of the children in our block.... tough decision!*

*As we look back, we have a lot to be thankful for this year. We thank God for being able to celebrate the one year anniversary of our church here in Rivas (Madrid), "Comunidad Cristiana Luz y Vida" in January. We hosted a dinner for all of the church members. Our friend and missionary colleague, Larry Winkles was our guest speaker. Our sister church in Lanzarote celebrated their first anniversary since their affiliation to the FMC. We visited France to meet with our fellow missionaries in Europe for the first ever European missionary retreat. Our church in Madrid, along with the church in Lanzarote held the first ever Men's retreat in Lanzarote, one of seven beautiful Islands in the Canaries. Men from both churches were challenged. One man came to Christ the last day of the retreat and he is now taking discipleship classes at our church. We spent the summer partnership building in the states; traveled to five states and Canada; visited thirteen churches; spoke at District meetings and had numerous one on one conversations with people who are interested in the ministry to the lost in Spain. We traveled over 4100 miles by car and about 8,000 miles by plane between June 25th and Sept 4th. If we had to pick a movie title to describe our summer it could definitely be "Trains, planes and automobiles " or maybe, "Who threw mamma from the train" would be appropriate...especially towards the end.*

*Before heading to North America we baptized seven new converts. This was a joyous occasion! And while our family was visiting abroad our*

*church held the first ever VBS/summer program. Five weeks of Bible stories crafts, science fairs and singing led by our co-worker Carrie Hamley, with the help of several church members, Rebecca from the USA and three English class students.*

*In October we held our first ever women's retreat in the beautiful city of Toledo. We stayed in a medieval castle turned into a youth hostel (you can see pictures on our web site). The second week in November the Lanzarote church met for their Annual Society meeting, we were present for the occasion, and our church here in Rivas did the same a week later. We received news on December 4th. that the FMC in Spain was officially registered by the Spanish government, this is a huge accomplishment. Our Christmas program will be small and mainly be put together by our Sunday school kids. Wow this year has certainly flown by! Soon we will be celebrating the New Year and probably making, yet again, new years resolutions.*

*As we started saying, we have a lot to thank God for, and we are especially grateful for you. Without you none of these things would be possible. It is God's plan to use people that have a heart for the lost. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and for your financial support. Thank you for being our friends, for the letters, the phone calls, some of you have even visited our home.*

*Thank you!*

*Josue "Josh", Susy, Gabriela, Isabella and Paco too!  
Missionaries to Spain.  
Free Methodist World Missions  
[www.thefajardos.com](http://www.thefajardos.com)*

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