

Dear prayer partners,

We appreciate your prayers for us, for Colombia and the nations. 2008 was a crisis year: Destructive fires in California, violence in Iraq, India and now Greece, and the ongoing global economic recession. Let us seek the Prince of Peace in prayer, the only real answer to human crisis, as we celebrate His birth.

USA & Great Britain

Thanks to fundraising efforts of our son David, daughter Joyce, Jim's sister-in-law Dawn and Mir's sister Kate, many of you cooperated toward our around the world sabbatical this year. We left Colombia in June for the USA, joining a Martin sibling reunion in Portland, receiving counseling help from Link Care in Fresno, going east to a Marquardt cousin's reunion in Michigan, then on to Maryland to see Miriam's mom before flying to Great Britain.

There we enjoyed hospitality in Scotland with the Fords and in London with the Wiebes and Miguel & Sara (& Daniele) Salgado (right). We trained Miguel in the Colombia missions school in Palenque in 2001. He continues to serve the Lord in London.

**CONTINENTAL EUROPE**

Leasing a Renault in Paris, we drove through Switzerland to visit Magdalena Senteler and her sister and brother-in-law, Daniel & Hanna Hess (left). Magdalena graduated from and then served as the economist at the Colombia Bible Seminary.

We then enjoyed a week each of time shares in Austria and Germany provided by a college friend. Returning to Switzerland, we visited Noémie Herren and Silvia Baumer and their families, who both served 8 months at the Seminary's children's library (BINCO) as student missionaries.



It was snowing when we drove through the Gothard Tunnel to Italy. The weather warmed as we traveled to Bari, near the heel of the Boot, where we were hosted by Sara Salgado's aunt María and relatives (right), who took us to Castel del Monte nearby.

From Brindisi we crossed the Adriatic Sea by ferry, arriving at Patras, Greece, the next morning. Bob & María Hill, missionaries our Woodlake Presbyterian Church has supported for years, hosted us. Touring Athens, we visited the church and Bible Institute where Bob ministers. We enjoy Greek food and hospitality!



We then joined the Pilgrim Tour in Cairo. Youth, young adults and grandparents (like us), most strong Christians, comprised the group. From Egypt we went to the foot of Mt. Sinai. Before sunrise Jim and others scaled it. Then to Jordan and Petra (gorgeous!) and into Israel.

Mikael (Mickey) Nikolaev, a completed Russian Jew (left, speaking), led the tour, with talks by Amnon Shur interspersed. Mickey explains that Peter probably preached in the Temple Area on the day of Pentecost, bringing the 3000 believers here near the Wailing Wall to be baptized in the many ceremonial purification sites that were located to the left behind the wall.



BACK TO CONTINENTAL EUROPE

From Tel Aviv we flew back to Athens, picked up our car from the Hills, then returned by ferry to Italy. In Rome, Nate & Jenny Bacon, David's missionary friends, put us up. We tunneled thru the Alps (snowing again), eventually arriving at Paris to return the car and later fly to Seville, Spain, where Mildred (former mission secretary for Christians in Action in Cartagena, Colombia) & her husband Jaime Toril and his parents awaited us (right).

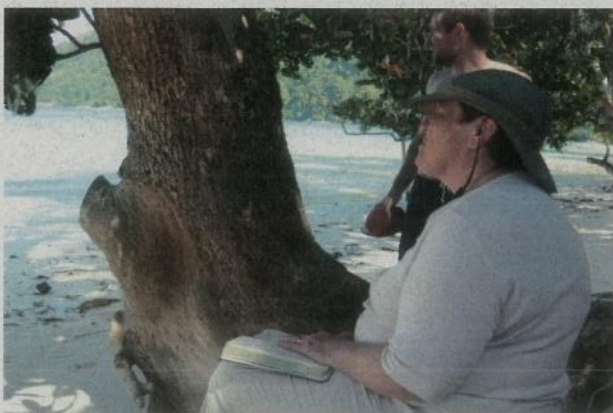


Jaime & Mildred gave us a good tour of Seville (we met Joyce's former houseparents--she studied here in 1989-90), Córdoba and Granada. In Madrid, Remberto & Luisa Reyes, Joyce, Keni and Janna welcomed us. Remberto's grandma Conce was our housekeeper in Cartagena (1972-76).



The Bangkok Airport takeover was lifted 4 days before our flight arrived! David came 2 days before to set up hotels and travel. We had a neat afternoon with Natalie Zapata, a Vineyard missionary from Medellín who is fluent in English and is doing well with Thai after a year here.

Below we muse at God's creation--the aquamarine waters by our tent site off North Surin Island in the Indian Ocean--while we read the Scriptures and pray.



Asked what we liked best about our trip, we had to answer: we have enjoyed the sights, sites, sounds, smells and tastes, but the best by far have been the PEOPLE God has brought into our lives.

Please pray for:

- The peace of Jerusalem.
- Healing and faith for Betty Martin (Miriam's mom), 86.
- Many new, committed students for the Seminary in 2009.
- Dino Dellini (Italy) and Remberto & Luisa Reyes (Spain): that they would come to know Christ personally.
- Missionaries Miguel and Sara in London, Mildred in Spain, and Natalia in Thailand.
- Our safe travel to New Zealand (Dec. 21-Jan 5), Hong Kong (Jan. 5-15), LA (Jan. 15-24) and to Medellín (Jan. 24 on).

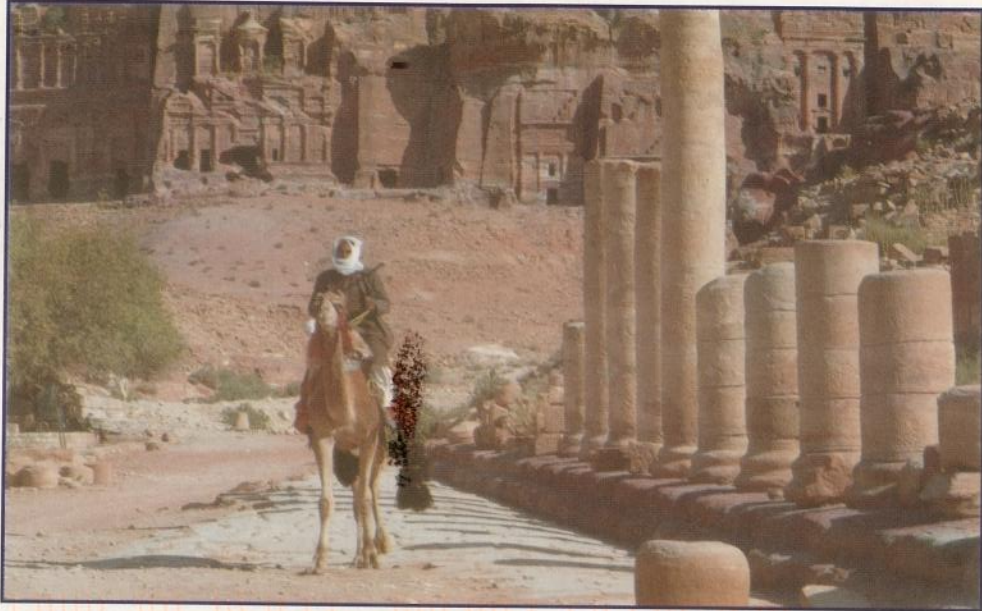
MERRY CHRISTMAS: Your co-workers (Ga. 6:9),

Jim & Miriam

Jim & Miriam Marquardt

Please make gifts payable to: Christians in Action, PO Box 728, Woodlake CA 93286-0728. Marquardts #012. Tax-deductible receipts sent.

Mark for: Colombia Training c/o



PETRA

15 January 2009

Greetings! We **الجمهورية الأردنية الهاشمية**

H. K. Of Jordan

Thank you for your prayers for us & for your faithful donations. Our trip has been spectacular - we are constantly aware of God's guiding, protection, & presence. How beautiful is the world He made! We have been most moved by the people we have met everywhere. Now we are on our way home from Hong Kong to R.A. & next week to

Medina

at the Senior

& keep you

17 JAN

2009



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