

**Neil and Jenny Stewart**

Location: **Bilbao, SPAIN**

Mission: **Church Planting and Outreach**



Greetings from the Basque Country! It's a new year in northern Spain and we are excited about what God is going to do in 2026! Last year didn't look as we had expected it to; cultural adaptation, changes in the team and sickness meant that life and ministry took on an unexpected shape. Nevertheless, we've seen God open doors and give us opportunities to learn. Neil has enjoyed being able to preach regularly and guide services at the International Church, Jenny has been able to get involved preparing the Women's Bible study and we have all been blessed getting to know people in the congregation. The pause has also allowed us to see some of the wider work that is already going on in Bilbao, grow some key relationships with people here, and deepen our understanding of the culture of the amazing Basque people.



Now that Derek is slowly returning to lead Bilbao International Church and we have completed (almost) all the bureaucratic requirements for life here, it feels like we are in a better position to move forward with plans for the church plant. We see many areas for ministry around us but want to plan well to make the most of these opportunities.

**February 2026**

Neil has been able to explore links with a group who do street evangelism at a nearby university, Jenny is always making friends at the gym and with parents of the kids' friends, Derek is very well connected with the student movement here, and Jane has lots of contacts within the community! The challenges still remain the same, but we can't help but feel hopeful and excited at the start of a new year.

As for the kids, Grace has been enjoying all her clubs and meeting new friends. We have seen her language really improve as well which is an encouragement. Jonah is taking a bit more time to find his feet but we are currently trying to find more avenues for him to engage. Zach is still putting a smile on people's faces wherever he goes!



We are so grateful for all of your prayers and support. Keep praying and together we will see what the Lord does this year!

**Prayer Points:**

- Pray for our language learning
- Pray that we can develop relationships with our contacts
- Pray for guidance as we plan for the future