

**Neil and Jenny Stewart**

Location: **Bilbao, SPAIN**

Mission: **Church Planting and Outreach**



As you read this, we will have been in Bilbao for a year. It's hard to believe that it's been that long. It feels like it's gone in the blink of an eye and yet the evidence is there in so many little ways. The yearly cycle of things like road tax, renewing memberships, and countless little things have all begun, and along with that the constant growth of the kids reminds us of how time has passed. Clothes once too big for Jonah are now too small, instead of carrying Zach everywhere when he first arrived, he's now running around. Grace has slipped into calling Neil 'Papa' instead of 'Daddy' as she drifts off to sleep. It has been a year of change and transition, but it has been a year where we have been incredibly grateful to God for His provision and care.

There is much to give thanks for as well in the international church. One new baby has been born and the arrival of another is immanent. For an international church where the congregation can be transitory, seeing these signs of families putting down roots and wanting to be part of the church is really encouraging. To try and encourage those families, the team has developed a family worship devotional. This plan follows the sermon series so that children can engage in the service and parents feel more equipped to disciple their children at home. It's a different way of doing kids ministry than some are used to but we pray that it will bear fruit. In regards to the church plant, last month I said that there are a number of key meetings that are going to happen. We've yet to confirm some of them, but initial conversations with key people have been positive as we try and think of how we can bless existing work.



We were reflecting with friends recently about the Basque people and how we have been integrating. Last week someone at the gym said to us, 'so you're staying for a while then?' It seems that being present, being constant and being committed to this place might take a while, but people notice. Pray that we are able to sustain a ministry that lasts.

**Prayer Points:**

- Give thanks to God for the past year.
- Pray that we would have a ministry that lasts.