

## Stephen ANDERSON

### SPAIN

**Location:** Torre del Mar

**Mission:** Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

January has been a month for reflection on the past year and looking ahead to what 2017 might bring. On 22nd January we gathered, and with the help of a facilitator, I stepped back and listened to what others had to say about the last 12 months.

Words such as hectic, disruption, welcoming, growth, and interaction peppered the first half of the conversation, as we looked at how our new worshipping community came to be, and the turmoil from which it was born. We commented on how the initial group of four people has now grown to a core group of eight along with visitors who come from time to time to worship alongside us. The format which has flexibility has a way of bringing people together, and the ability to grow together was seen as a strength.

The weaknesses of our community were seen to be the lack of opportunity for communal prayer and the inappropriateness of the restaurant / bar for the silence of a communion service. There was a desire for more Bible study and the training in Bible study techniques, but no one wanted to lose the informality and openness that the current location affords us. We worship without walls and show by our interaction and care for each other, something of what Christian community might look like to those on the outside.

Looking ahead, we began to explore our desire for growth, the need for effective communication,



interaction with nearby Spanish congregations, and how, in the midst of varying schedules, to increase the level of interaction and fellowship with one another. This has set our agenda for the next 12 months.

I came away encouraged from listening to what others had to say, everything is not wonderful, but the ability to value our strengths and pinpoint our weaknesses has been an insightful exercise. Now we know what we are aiming for during 2017!

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the building of bridges with local Spanish congregations.
- Pray for the development of the structures within the congregation to facilitate growth.
- Pray for our witness (especially to the staff) on Sunday mornings as we worship together.
- Pray that the Lord will be gracious to us and bring to us those that we need to allow both teaching and team mission.

Monthly Bulletins are available for all PCI Overseas Mission Personnel

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