

the LISBON

focus

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NOVEMBER



We had much to be thankful for in November. It was our privilege to organize and host a retreat for the BBFI missionaries in Spain and Portugal. We find these fields to be heavily spiritually oppressed, making the work here taxing and discouraging. The idea of a retreat was not original with us, but we liked it! Another organization has the habit of hosting a yearly retreat in Portugal for their European missionaries, and we have seen the blessing it is for them to set aside time to rest, fellowship, and be encouraged by God's Word. We had the vision of offering the same within our own organization.

We are grateful for the stateside pastors and that made this retreat a success: Pastor Eric and Lisa Doucet (College Station, TX) along with Pastor Tim Taylor (Spain and Portugal's field representative from Vergennes, VT). His church also sent John Kaufman (youth pastor) to minister to the mk teens and two sweet ladies to do a VBS with the kids. No one went un-ministered to! How humbling that these individuals paid their own expenses and put their own families, ministries, and lives on hold to do this for us. We are truly grateful.

DECEMBER



December brought the regular hustle and bustle of Christmas. Above, Valerie and Avery participated in their international school program, Valerie as choir director and Avery as a choir member. Valerie also



organized a bell choir for the kids at church. They played for our Christmas service. Carol also wrote a "game show" skit in which Jesus and Santa Claus "faced off" for the real reason for Christmas. Jesus won ☺.



We hope your families and ministries had a blessed season this Christmas! Happy 2015.

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