

# PERDOMO FAMILY MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 2022



## *What makes you great?*

One of the best known prophecies about Jesus is that of Micah 5:2. In this extraordinary passage, the prophet announces, hundreds of years in advance, the place where the expected Messiah will be born. The words are well known. He Speaks about a village that is “too small” to be numbered among the clans of Judah, but that, even so, will come from it the desired ruler of Israel. It is clear that Bethlehem is the modest and small place that has the historical privilege of being the birthplace of the Savior.

However, when Matthew quotes this prophecy, he makes some changes that may be disconcerting. Some of these changes are minor, such as when Micah speaks of Bethlehem Ephrathah, while Matthew says "Bethlehem of the land of Judah". However, there is a change that seems like a contradiction: Micah says that Bethlehem is “too little”, while Matthew says that “by no means least”.

We rule out ideas of a mistranslation or a quote from a different passage by Matthew. Why the difference? The explanation presents us with a wonderful and powerful truth. Matthew does not directly quote Micah's text, but instead makes a general allusion, adding his own informed opinion to the prophet's message. While the prophet declares the truth of the human littleness of Bethlehem, the evangelist points out the result of the birth of Christ in that town. One says that Bethlehem is small and the other affirms that, after the presence of the Messiah, that village is by no means small. Both are complementary realities.

In the same way, our identity as persons is strongly influenced by the Person of Christ. The reality is that, as Micah says, we are small; undeserving of the grace and blessings of a holy and perfect God. At the same time, when we experience the presence and power of the Lord, it can be said of us, as Matthew says, that "we are not" the least. The presence of God turns the "small" into "not small"!

This Christmas season we need to remember that our greatness or littleness is not determined by the number of friends, money, Christmas decorations or fame we achieve, but by the action of Christ in us. If you feel like a small Bethlehem, with Christ you are definitely not small anymore. You are a key part of God's perfect plans. He considers you important. May this thought flood our days of Christmas celebration with family and with our churches. Have a Christmas filled with love, hope and joy from Christ, our Redeemer.

## Learning in Turkey and Europe

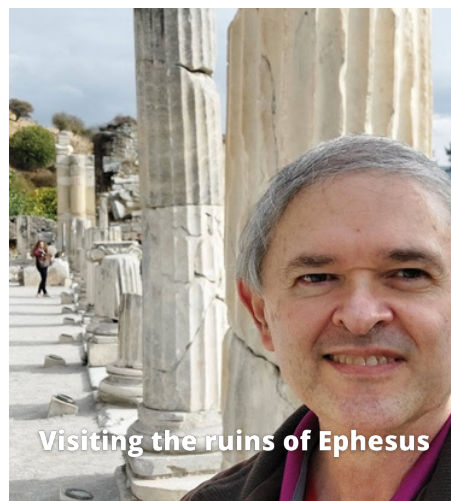
Thanks to God's mercy and the generous support of people like you, Alan, along with Abner, a fellow World Reach missionary, made an informative and productive trip to the historic city of Izmir (Smyrna) in Turkey in November. The global event that they attended was a meeting of theological educators from ICETE (Evangelical Council of Theological Education). More than 600 participants from many countries engaged in dialogue, reflection and proposing ways to collaborate and improve the quality of education for pastors and church leaders in the context of formal and non-formal education.

The event was a platform which facilitated conversations and dialogue between educators from different regions of the world. Alan participated in a group which reflected and proposed ways to improve the quality of non-formal theological education. Apart from that, informal dialogue was promoted among the participants to share experiences and ideas related to the topics of the consultation. In the end, the participation of Alan and his fellow missionary resulted in a lot of learning and growth. They offered their ideas and listened to people from other parts of the planet express their concerns and experiences.

Besides their participation in this important global event, Alan and Abner took the opportunity to visit a missionary family in Spain and to visit the historic city of Rome. Besides, as part of the event in Turkey, they visited the ruins of Ephesus and the city of Laodicea. These visits resulted in great personal growth for them and will give a deeper dimension to their Biblical teaching. We praise the Lord for his guidance during this trip and for new opportunities to grow and contribute to the Kingdom of God.



World Reach missionaries in the event in Turkey



Visiting the ruins of Ephesus



One of the groups of discussion



## Kyrien has been baptized

One of the greatest privileges a parent can have is lead their children to Christ. In our case, Dorys led our daughter Kyrien to the Lord, and now, Alan had the privilege to baptize her as part of her Christian testimony as a daughter of God. In early December, our local church baptized three people. One of them was Kyrien, our daughter. It was a celebration of God's grace and a public display of faith and commitment to the Lord. Praise the Lord for this precious opportunity to witness our daughter grow in her faith.