

## Camino Contemplations ( A Message from Pastor Dave)

Bon Camino all the way from France. I would love to keep you updated on my pilgrimage and to share some of my thoughts with you over the next weeks. So here goes:

I begin the Camino Frances at it's official starting point in Saint Jean Pied de Port; this literally means "Saint John at the foot of the mountain pass." It is a gorgeous French village where three Camino routes meet, the paths from: Paris; Le Puy; and Velay. From here the Pilgrim has a choice of two routes by which they may cross the Pyrenees; the valley of Valcarlos or the climb of the "Way of Napoleon. " This latter route follows a steady climb which finishes with a steep ascent at the Portillo of Leizar-Athea; Spain awaits.

A Pilgrim is a traveller motivated by devotion. As Alec Motyer states, "in the Christian life we have all embarked on a pilgrimage of the heart." We have arrived at this official starting point from different paths and have not chosen the easy valley way for our lives. We have stepped out onto the more difficult route of the Way of Christ. This is a life of faith (without which we cannot please God, Hebrews 11: 6), which is meant to be lived on the move (without action faith is dead, James 2: 17). We will walk in this Way through varying terrains but with a single destination; our eternal city lies before us as we complete the journey of this life. The Way of Christ is to be walked with our eyes fixed on our Saviour as God's "children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.....loving one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As we have heard from the beginning, His command is that we walk in love," (from 2 John 1: 4 & 6).

I cannot reach Santiago without walking and I need to follow the way of the Camino. We cannot complete our pilgrimage of faith by standing still. Our Way is that of Christ's following God's commands in truth and love; may we examine our paths and may we so walk.....together.

(Over for pictures)

