

The Casey Corner

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Lately the Lord has been impressing upon our hearts **how much He DELIGHTS in us**. What a GRACIOUS, HUMBLING thought---That the LORD would DELIGHT in US! (Psalm 18:19) I pray as you read this, that you'd be reminded of the DELIGHT the Lord has toward YOU, no different than the delight a Father has toward their infant child. He created you; He has a plan for you, and He takes joy in his handiwork, which is YOU! What a truly wonderful Savior we serve!!!

We want to share a few short stories from our time we spent serving on the Camino de Santiago during Semana Santa. This was an exceptionally special trip as not only were we ministering to literally hundreds of pilgrims from all over the world that passed through our doors each day, but we were doing it alongside of the very first missions team we've ever hosted! Joy upon joy upon joy!

Our goals during this week of ministry were twofold.

That we'd minister Christ's love to the pilgrims

That we'd minister Christ's love to one another.

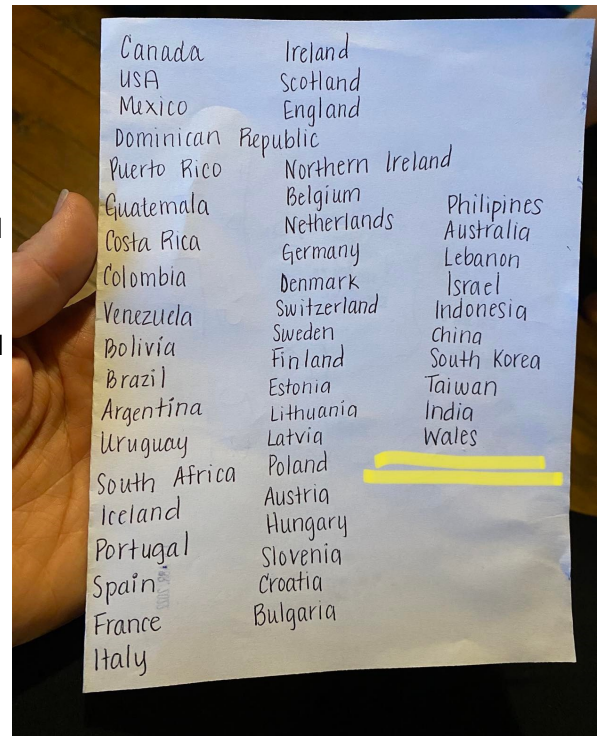
I can confidently say that BOTH goals were abundantly exceeded, and to God be the glory for that!

We want to introduce you to Camila. Camila was a pilgrim who was actually biking the route backwards. She's a tattoo artist from Brazil who had a job lined up in Paris, so she decided to start in Santiago and finish in France. Brenda Lei was able to speak truth into some of the lies surrounding the version of Christianity she was exposed to growing up and has since rejected. Camila was reminded that the only way to God is through Jesus Christ, not through strict adherence to legalistic measures (no cutting hair, only wearing skirts, no piercings or tattoos, etc.). After a time of prayer, Camila walked away refreshed and thankful for the reminder that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that no man comes to the Father except through Him.



This is Sofia. Sofia stayed a while in our yard, and, after enjoying the atmosphere so much, she decided to finish her walk for the day (about 5 more miles), then take a taxi BACK to our lodging so that she could stay with us for the night. Throughout the family-style dinner we host, a time of reflection afterwards, and a conversation she overheard Josh having with another lady, she eventually approached Josh with questions of her own. The Holy Spirit was at work! In the wee hours of the morning Sofia gave her life to Christ! The next morning she left us a note in the guestbook saying, "I go with Jesus..." What a blessing to know that she came empty, but she left FILLED! Praise the Lord! FURTHER-MORE, as if this wasn't an encouragement enough, this was an exceptionally huge spiritual monument, as it's the first time we've shared the Gospel in Spanish and had someone accept it (in Spanish)! Although we've shared the Gospel (in Spanish) countless times now, there's something very emotional about God blessing all our hard work in this language with FRUIT! Praising the Lord DOUBLE for Sofia's salvation!

Although I forget this man's name, it's not as easy to forget his story. It was Saturday night, only about an hour until we were scheduled to close the doors to the pilgrims for the last time during our week of service. Our official interaction with them would be done, which is always a bittersweet feeling. We had a map on the wall with pins indicating from which countries some of the pilgrims we had interacted with had been from. I had been counting up and writing down all the countries, just for our own curiosity's sake. (In the end, 49 countries to be exact.) I noticed that we didn't have anyone from Wales pinned on the map, which I thought odd, as Wales is so close to Spain, and nearly every European country was represented, except Wales. Our family had taken a vacation to Wales 5 years ago, so I knew if anyone came from Wales that I would have an immediate common talking point, which meant I had a higher chance of having a deeper, Gospel conversation with them. I sent up a quick, silent prayer to the Lord, "Send us someone from Wales, Lord. You know I can talk to them if you send them. So send them, and send them soon. We close the doors in an hour." 30 SECONDS LATER in walks a man, and as I'm stamping his pilgrim passport I casually ask him where he's from, just like I've done for what feels like a hundred times that week already. He says, "Wales." I'm pretty sure I let off an audible gasp. And so off the conversation went. I was able to confidently share with Him how I believed God had sent him there, in that timing, as an answer to my prayer. And from there we chatted even more, eventually leading to the great love the Lord has for him. This interaction very likely ministered to my heart more than it did to his! The way the Lord so personally interacted with me and my desire spoke affirmation and confidence in the Lord all over my soul!



There's so many more stories I could tell, but the best stories are ones you are involved in personally. So, COME! Get over here and be a part of God's story unfolding in Spain! If you or your church is interested in putting together a missions team to come and minister alongside of us here in Spain, please reach out and let us know! We don't have to make any commitments, but we'd love to simply field any questions you may have and just get the information ball rolling. We are passionate about hosting teams, because we firmly believe that God uses missions trips to change people's lives. Not only did this team bless the lives of so many spiritually thirsty pilgrims, but they greatly blessed and encouraged us as well. Their simple presence (and bringing of yummy American Easter goodies!) reminded us that we are not at all alone, that we are prayed for, that we what God has faithfully brought us to here in Spain is worth it. What a blessing this team was to us! We're incredibly thankful for the joy and laughter they brought into our lives, and in just the right time. God knows what we need, and He sent encouragement in just the right time! Please, let's schedule a trip with you and your family/young adult class/old folks class/anyone and everyone class...we want you ALL! Come see us! We'd love to get you involved in what God is doing over here!

As you talk to Jesus..

Praise

For Sofia's new walk with the Lord!

For our own daughter's boldness in proclaiming the Gospel and her own testimony to many pilgrims without fear during our week there!

Although two of our girls came down with influenza during our week there, the rest of the team was spared and the rest of our family came down with it AFTER our time of service ended. So thankful the Lord preserved our health during those critical days of endless ministry needs!

Prayer

Continued vision and wisdom from the Lord as we pursue next steps of ministry here in Arroyomolinos. We know He's brewing up something and we're getting more and more excited!

Our upcoming mini furlough this summer. (July-mid August 2022) We're praying for two things during this furlough: that we'd greatly encourage the Body of Christ in what He has done already and what we're anticipating Him doing as we continue in ministry here, and that we as a family, especially our children, would be ministered to themselves quite profoundly as we immerse ourselves in a Christian context and surround ourselves with Christian fellowship. We have no shame in saying WE NEED ENCOURAGEMENT and OUR GIRLS NEED CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE!

That'd we'd walk in the light, as He is in the light, in each and every area of our lives. Within us as individuals, within our marriage, within our parenting, within our family unit as a whole, as ambassadors for Christ here in Spain, within our online presence, within our extended family interactions, etc. We desire to bring to light all the parts of us that need His healing touch and need the blood of Jesus and then trust Him with that process as He deems fit.

For Sofia's continued walk with the Lord. Although we personally may never see her earth side again, she is now in contact with a local gathering of believers where she lives, and we pray she is ministered to effectively and that she grows in her walk with Him!

