

thewhitesinspain

June 2017

Dear St James,

This week I have been reflecting on God's faithfulness. Exactly 1 year ago I drove 600km south with a truck to move our life into the garage of a house we didn't own yet and then to move into a tent on the mountain whilst we waited for God to do the impossible. We didn't know anyone, have schools for the boys, know why we were here or how things would work out. All we had was a word from God, a promise and a confidence in His faithfulness.



1 year later we have an incredible home, amazing schools for the boys, a network of Christians in the city to encourage us and journey with, an amazing family working with us and sharing life and a forming community of un-churched locals on amazing journeys towards Jesus. We have had nearly 40 people stay with us and many more come to share meals and spend time in our house. We have seen people have encounters with God, receive emotional healing, be refreshed, receive prophetic words and have seen several healings including bad backs, joint pains, breathing problems and Crohns Disease. We are so honoured that God would let us be part of this, all we can say is 'Thank you' and 'More God, yes and Amen to everything you want to do!'

Faith for the unseen

As individuals and a community (our 2 families) we are convinced by and are journeying in the area of seeing the supernatural in our daily lives. We have an expectation to see the reality of Heaven manifested here 'today' in the earth. Sometimes we see this with our open eyes and other times we have to receive it without seeing. For us there can't be a distinction, gravity exists whether I see something falling or not, yet so often in our journey we let disappointment come because we miss this. Our confidence is in Gods un-changing nature and goodness not in us knowing everything.

I had an amazing encouragement in this area a few weeks ago. A good friend of mine from University whom I lived with for 3 years had been called to Spain to church plant years before we moved. We occasionally messaged each other and finally met up last summer in Marbella where He lives. We shared stories and caught up on what had happened during the last 10 years! He shared with me about a girl he had met in Australia and a difficult situation regarding whether He should move there and marry her which was a big leap of faith. I normally don't give words about relationships but I felt the Holy Spirit say this was right and he should go for it. As we were about to leave the tapas bar he asked me to pray for his shoulder which had been in constant pain for a long time and had limited movement.

Afterwards I heard nothing from him but believed that God would do something. I few weeks ago I was standing outside an ice cream shop in Nerja (a town about 1 hour from Marbella) with my mum who had just come to visit. I felt a tap on my shoulder and it was my friend Simon who by chance was staying in the town and come to buy an ice cream. His first words were, 'Here is my fiancé, we are getting married this Summer' he then said that he had meant to contact me but after I had prayed he went home, all the pain left his arm and it has been perfect ever since!! It really encouraged me not to assume nothing has happened if we don't hear the good news.

Exciting developments

Just before Easter we had another family church in our house. A few people were away so could not come but we still had around 25 adults and children. We had a time of worship (for many would have been their first experience of that) and I preached a short word about new life and a God who wants to be known and have a personal relationship with us. It was crazy with kids running everywhere but at the end we had some amazing feedback. One couple, Alba and Felix, who had not really shown much interest before in things other than socials said how they loved the worship and wanted to do it more. They also really connected with the talk as it was relevant, real and in a language they could understand. The response was positive from everyone who came and we believe there are now several couples really hungry to know God. We are meeting up with all our contacts during the week for meals, coffee, play dates and any other excuse to share life together. God always comes up in conversation and we are so encouraged to see how Holy Spirit is working in people's hearts and lives.

Moving forward

We are now looking to have monthly meetings in our house and to arrange community meetings in various locations 2 more weeks a month. As the weather is nearly always good we are meeting outside having picnics or going to a place in the countryside together - anything that easily facilitates community. We are amazed how meeting like this is a foreign concept to the Spanish who generally only socialise within their family circles. They have loved the events we have arranged and really want to make them more regular. We were due to have our next family church last week but both Sam and Leo have had chicken pox and it also clashed with the season of 'First Communions' which is a huge thing here in Spain so we have postponed it until 17th June. Please pray that everyone can attend, we really feel that this will be significant, Kellie has a word to share about the Father heart of God and I have a strong desire to lay hands on our friends and pray for an encounter with Jesus. We are hoping to have some friends help us with some kid's activities to create space for this to happen because with 10+ kids from 1 year to 12 years it can be hard to engage everyone at the same time.

Summer Plans

In July we head back to the UK for 5 weeks and will be doing a tour of the South, East and West connecting with friends, families and supporters. It will be really good to see many of you again and share in more detail what God is doing. Please pray that we can rest in the midst of lots of travel and constant change of locations and places we are staying. We really want this to be a good time for the boys and pray that they can enjoy it without it being too overwhelming. During this time we will be praying for direction regarding how to carry things forward. We are in no hurry to formalise things as we don't ever want structure or programme to become more important than encounters with Jesus. However, we need supernatural ideas and wisdom for the best ways to disciple and support this forming community within the restraints of culture and peoples available time. We know God has a plan for Spain and it will look different to anywhere else, we just want to be available to be used by Him in any way without getting in the way!

Please pray especially for Juan & Blanca, Alba & Felix and Prisca & Bernt and their families (6 kids in total) These are couples who are on a journey and we believe it is a key time for them. Pray against any plan of the enemy, pray for encounters, dreams and the presence of God to overshadow them. We long to see the first fruits here in Granada.

Please pray for the wider community (more than 8 other families) with whom we have shared things, prayed with or have come to family church. Pray that whilst we are away they would keep thinking about and moving towards Jesus, that there would be a hunger in their hearts for the things of God!

Look forward to seeing some of you soon, thank you for being part of this!

Love Chris, Liz, Leo & Samuel