

August 2021

Dear St James,

Greetings from the UK! It has been really good to be able to get back after nearly 12 months away. We had to negotiate all the testing, quarantine and pings! But we are now free to travel and the Great British Summer celebrated by raining – a lot! It has been good to escape the Spanish heat and to catch up with family and friends after such a strange year. We have been based in Somerset with Liz & Sam making a trip to Liverpool and then family trips to Minehead to see Chris's mum and then to Dorset for a family camp. It's run by Urban Saints – a Christian Charity, we have been twice before and had an amazing family holiday camping with about 70 other people in a field by a beautiful beach. It so good for the boys to meet the other kids and have so many people to play with.

Sometimes the world can seem like a really small place. On a recent trip to Bath we met up with our friends Corin (and his mum), Carmen and their nephews (see picture). We met them 5 years ago in our town La Zubia and they are very much part of our life and family. They are both on a journey with God, Corin grew up on a Hippie Commune near Bath and Carmen is from a proud Spanish Catholic family. Please pray for them that they both have a life changing encounter with Jesus! We played minigolf together and got chatting to the girl running the kiosk. It turns out she was also just visiting for summer and is part of an AOG team church planting in Marseille, France. We exchanged emails and will keep in touch! It is so encouraging to hear that God has people working in so many different places and contexts.



First fruits

Because of the ever-changing restrictions and personal situations of our friends in Spain it has been hard to build any kind of momentum this year in terms of regular input. We have managed to meet up with at least one person or family on a daily basis and have kept our daily rhythm of prayer and worship with Dave & Kellie. They have been going out on the streets 2-3 times a week in our town to look for people to talk to and pray for. They have had many opportunities to love, share with and pray for healing for people of all ages and backgrounds. One time Kellie was praying with one of the waitresses at the cafe in the park a few doors from our new community cafe space. We regularly go there and know all the staff. This lady had had significant back pain for several months. As Kellie prayed for her, she felt heat go through her body and then jumped up instantly healed. She was genuinely amazed and surprise and Kellie got to share more with her about who Jesus is and what He did on the cross. During the last few weeks before we left for summer they prayed with 2 more women who understood for the first time The Gospel and then prayed to give their lives to Jesus. Dave and Kellie have followed them up but it has proved difficult as one lives in a village quite a distance from us and the other has a very hectic life. Please pray that this precious seed is protected and that these women grow in their relationship with Jesus. There have been too many stores to share with you here but we all feel that there is a momentum growing on our town. When we open our community cafe in September, we already have a group of people who want to come and be there regularly and to start studying the Bible together.

Kellie has been going to a dentist regularly over the past 18months and I (Chris) have just started to get some work done on my wisdom teeth. Kellie had a prophetic word for one of the dental nurses which left her in tears when she realised God loves her so much and sees her. When I was coming out after a painful session of drilling with a numb face I mentioned to the receptionist that I was friends with Kellie. Her first question was, 'Does God speak to you?' the ladies who work there must have spoken to the dental nurse and heard her story! I said, 'Yes He does, all the time' she says 'What is He saying to me then?' What a

great question! I quickly asked The Holy Spirit for something and shared with her what I felt God was saying to her. She looked very surprised that God knew her. I got to share my story with her and about how amazing it is to know Jesus. She said as soon as we open our community cafe she wants to come and visit!



La Fuente Community Cafe

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone for your incredible support with this project. Our faith target was £10,000 to cover start-up and year 1 running costs and to date we have been given or pledged over that figure. We have been working hard and are nearly there! The electrics were a mess so we have done a full rewire, redecorated, opened up the bathroom door for wheelchair access and freshened up the bathroom with new paint, toilet and sink. The old suite was pastel pink and I took the old wc to the bins on the road next to our shop to be recycled. Waiting there was a perfectly good white one which I was able to bring back and have fitted!! God knew exactly what we need even before we did? We also wanted to buy a good 'bean-to-cup' coffee machine. Just as I was about to buy one our neighbour said they were given one for Christmas they were not using that is basically brand new. They sold it to us for about 60% of the cost!

The kitchen is fitted and all the furniture is in the storeroom ready to be assembled. Most of the work now involves the finishing off of pallet walls, accessories and signage, shelving in the kitchen area and final design touches. Through the process we have been able to give some paid work to Felix who has been working alongside Chris. He is part of our community and on a journey with Jesus. Over lockdown his partner left him and there are 2 small children involved, he has struggled to afford food some weeks so this work and extra gardening work with Chris has enabled him to provide for his family these past few months.

This has always been a huge part of our ministry as we believe that The Gospel is practical and about a fulfilled abundant life not just struggling through. Not material abundance, like some theologies from across the pond, but an intentional purpose and deep connection with The Creator of the universe that shapes and forms every part of our lived existence. God created everyone with a purpose and longing in their hearts that were meant to be fulfilled. We want to see people thriving, free, whole and connected into something bigger than themselves. It says in Proverbs, 'Without vision the people perish', we are all lost until we realise our higher purpose, that real meaning and fulfilment can only be found in Jesus and then seeking His will and purpose for us. That the safest place to live is abandoning all to Him and accepting His invitation to go on adventures wherever He takes us!

New friends

The missionary life can at times be very lonely and we can feel isolated. Although we have friends 99% aren't Christians yet, which we love, but also miss that deep heart connection you get with other believers. We had heard that there were a young American couple in our town who came as missionaries but in 3 years we had never seen them and our paths never crossed even after several attempts to contact them. To cut a long story short we finally met in June this year. They are called Christian & Hannah, have a young baby, and live one street away from us! They have started to join us to pray and go out on the streets. They are really open to us and have a Kingdom heart. Although they are committed to their own organisation

and have a team based in the next town, we can see them becoming really good friends. They are looking after our house whilst we are here in the UK. Once again God knows our needs and sends the right people at the right time to help us!

Please Pray

That the time in the UK will be a time of refreshing and rest for us as a family

For protection for our friends in Spain that Holy Spirit will keep working in their hearts whilst we are not physically there with them. That in September the momentum will keep growing and we will see more making decisions to follow Jesus

That the final jobs in the Community Cafe will go smoothly and we can start using the space

(Even while we have been doing the work we have been praying and worshipping several mornings a week. We had a young Venezuelan couple we met in the park join us to pray. They have some faith but don't know Jesus yet but were weeping in God's presence and said to us this is what they have been looking for all their lives!! This is what we live for and long to see on a regular basis)

That the boys have a really happy start to the school year as hopefully the restrictions will be lifted and school can be more fun than it has been this year.

God bless you and thank you for journeying with us!

Chris, Liz, Leo & Sam.

