

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 Jn 1:3*

Dear friends and family,

We have been reflecting on this verse as it formed part of a **family** weekend in February at church. The speaker reminded us that: *there is no greater title and there is no greater honour, than to be called a **child of God***. And over these last two months, we are thankful for the care of our Father God.

**January** was a slow month here, as we were both unwell, and our church switched to online due to the pandemic. However, we are thankful that we both recovered well by the end of the month. Valencia opened up again and we were delighted to be able to attend a **small wedding** of a young couple, who realised that - after coming to Christ - it was the right thing to get married and declare their commitment before God, rather than continuing to live together without that commitment.



In February, the adult Sunday School was difficult to maintain, because of the weeks missed due to covid. The topic is **personal restoration** from a biblical perspective and something so deep means that this group needs a lot of trust and consistency to work. On a positive note, our church, La Buena Nueva, voted in a new **pastoral couple** to come after Luis' retirement. They are a couple we had met in November and we are happy the church has taken this decision. On 11-12th February, we attended a **marriage weekend** led by Anna & Jose Carajol in Monteluz camp centre and this was a really good and beneficial time for us. On 26th- 27th February, the same couple came back to hold a conference for **families** and to talk about parent-children relationships, this was a really useful session, and a couple we meet up who have 4 children came along.



We have continued with **one-to-one** and small group **studies**. We have been able to meet with our elderly friend, Nubia, who continues to study the Bible faithfully and with enthusiasm. Sarah has had a few mornings of **baking** and fellowship in the month of Feb, sharing testimonies and looking at the topic of forgiveness. Jose has been able to meet up with a young man with a very tough family background once a week, alongside **Victor**, to study the Bible. Please pray for these meetings.



In our last prayer letter we mentioned that a few people have been talking to us about **abuse** in childhood, and we are very thankful to have seen one of our friends make a significant breakthrough in the **healing** process this month. We can't write the details but we are truly amazed by how God puts the timing, the circumstances and the right words in place.



The church plant has started to pick up again after being closed for almost 6 weeks due to covid. A **new family** have come from Peru (having left their home to escape violence), and they have breathed some new life into the meetings, a family of five, playing traditional instruments. Our friend, Nubia, continues to attend regularly and says that she feels this is **her home, her place**, even though she doesn't understand everything yet. This is a crucial time for the church plant and we are not sure what will happen moving forward. Please pray that God's will be done, and that this work may continue, for His glory.



Finally, we have started two short courses: one course on **church planting**, M4READY (3 hours a week for 9 months) through which we are able to get to know people working on church plants throughout Spain, and the second course Prevention and **pastoral care for suicide** by the Institute of the Family, which lasts one month.

Thank God for:

- We are thankful to have just touched down at Dublin Airport! We are home for a week to visit our families.
- We are so thankful for **your prayers** and support.
- We are especially thankful for the life of our dear friend **Pastor Stanley Johnston**, of Finaghy Elim. He was a great encouragement & example to us. We remember his wife Helen in prayer as she mourns.
- Our **quick recovery** in January.
- Encouragement at the **marriage weekend**, and for all the ways in which God has blessed our marriage.
- God's work in the lives of people in both **Picassent** (church plant), and **Valencia**.
- Our good friends **Christoph and Steph**, who left in December, have settled in well to their new home in Germany.
- Provision of new **pastor** for la Buena Nueva church, coming in May/June.
- Ongoing **healing** for friend who suffered abuse in childhood.
- Opportunity to **learn** about suicide prevention and care through course.
- New **friendships** - contact with people church planting in different places in Spain who may need co-workers, and Sarah has made a new friend from Australia who lives closeby.

Please pray for:

- Our **marriage** and our **mums**, that God continues to bless them. Our mums have both had some health tests and that Sarah's mum would be able to recover from a very long bout of vertigo.
- For the church plant, in **Picassent** - for God to take control. We are at a key moment where the church will take decisions about its future. For Willy and Mercedes and all those involved.
- **Guidance** for our future, for the right doors to open & close, as we continue to pray about Picassent and look at different opportunities.
- **Ongoing provision** through either translation or financial support. Although we believe that every part of life is worship to God, our desire would be to spend the majority of our time ministering to people, and less time in other work, but we are thankful for however provision comes.
  - That these two **courses** (church planting and suicide prevention) would be useful.
- One-to-one and small group studies, for **wisdom** and the right words to say, and when to just listen. Please pray especially for **Alba, Gabriel**, and **Nubia** and for the **young man** with family difficulties. Please keep praying for **Victor**, that God strengthens and guides him.
- For José **preaching**, that he may preach clearly and faithfully.
- For our brothers and sisters in the **Russian-speaking church**, who meet in our church building on Sunday afternoons. Many of the congregation escaped violence in 2014, and we expect they will now have a further influx of people. Please pray especially for unity and wisdom for the **pastor Alik** and team.
- That God would open our eyes to see what He wants us to see, and to follow Him everyday.