

Dear friends and family, my brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you for reading, praying, giving, partnering! It was 5 years ago, back in COVID times that I started sharing via emails and video calls about my call to serve in Spain. I am thankful for your partnership since then, but even more for all the ways He has worked in our lives from then until now. Recount God's goodness with me, how He has provided, led, taught, cared for, and grown us. May He continue to mold us and shape us into Christlikeness as we follow and trust in Him.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

My students are working through another novel study that they are enjoying about a character who must try to survive in the wilderness, but it brings up good conversations with the students about perseverance, bravery, resiliency, responding to trauma, and hope. Favorite sports right now on the playground are four square, soccer, basketball, and volleyball; those activities bring plenty of opportunities to develop good character, such as patience, humility, good sportsmanship, and playing fair. One never knows when Jesus, His life's example, or a Bible verse will be inserted next into a conversation with these kiddos.

Allie. She's the newest member of the ABWE Spain team and my housemate. She's studying Spanish and organizing the Brilla English conversation classes. I'm thankful God has brought her here! Pray that we would be an encouragement to and a good influence on one another as we serve the Lord in the various ministries we're in.

Semana Santa: A little trip to Alicante and conversations about the Resurrection. The week leading up to Easter Sunday is called "Semana Santa" (Holy Week); all schools in Spain take the week off, and many people have work vacations as well. Some families go to the beach, some go visit their village where their family is from, and others just spend time with their families in town. But every evening (in most cities), there are processions. Catholic churches organize the music (from a host of trumpeters to drummers), the Pasos (very large, wooden, ornately decorated floats carried by many that hold life-size images of Mary or Jesus), and the individuals who walk the streets: sometimes with veils and candles or colored robes and incense, or barefoot and in chains or carrying a cross. Crowds line the streets, whether to see their family member participate, as a social event of the town, as per tradition, or as a tourist. When two teachers and I went to a beach city called Alicante for a few days during our break, we would happen upon these processions on our

way to or from dinner. This cultural activity can provide some unique points of conversation, so the following week at Brilla Cafe, we chatted with our Spanish friends about their thoughts and opinions on these traditions. Questions such as "How do you think the message of love and sacrifice is shown during these celebrations? What can people learn about forgiveness during this time of year? How do you think the processions represent people's beliefs and values?" prompted some unique responses. Some friends who were brought up Catholic were able to note that much of what is "celebrated" is not the resurrection of Christ, nor of the hope of eternal life or forgiveness of sins, but is mostly about the suffering of Jesus and the sorrow of Mary. We had some great conversations about the truth of the Resurrection of Christ and the hope that we have because of it. Pray with us for these friends to have a hunger for the Truth.

Praises:

- Brilla Cafe English conversation classes are going well
- Praising the Lord with fellow believers on Easter Sunday (you could feel the joy in the church as people sang songs loudly and with their whole heart)
- Many little blessings this month, including some time to rest from school during Semana Santa, a sweet birthday dinner with friends, authentic conversations of wisdom and truth, gorgeous roses growing on my patio (see below), and locating a new walking path near my apartment

Prayer Requests:

- The month of May is FULL with end of the year special activities (dress up days, fieldtrips, sports day), keeping students engaged in learning as much as we can in the meantime, organizing Elementary Camp again at ECA (thanks to a team at WHBC for preparing and coming here in less than a month!). Prayers for this busy time of year!
- Continued prayers for provision of teachers at ECA and for more Spaniards to come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.