

March-April 2023

ANDERSONS TO
Spain



Hola from Boo de Piélagos, Spain!

March and April have flown by so fast. I'm sitting looking back at all the Lord has accomplished and it's pretty amazing. Our teammates had several visitors in March and we had the opportunity of helping to host. Often you will hear negative opinions about having groups visit on the field but, I have to tell you, the presence of other like minded people speaks volumes to the community here. It is a different "missions trip" experience, there is no brick and mortar building to tend to yet and handing out flyers or tracks isn't an option. However, sharing the history and thick religious background of the people, getting to meet them and have meals together makes the trip priceless. Our goal is to be able to share the challenges of our ministry in Northern Spain first hand and making it personal so they take a piece of it with them and pass it on to their churches and families, that is key.

Our family had the opportunity to travel a bit in Spain and take a little break away together. It was a great time to regroup and recharge. We decided to travel south and soak up some culture and history. What we didn't know was that it was Holy Week, Semana Santa. Apparently everyone knows, except us, the busiest place in Spain during Semana Santa is in the south. During this holiday most towns and cities celebrate Easter for the whole week leading up to Easter Sunday. They put on these elaborate processions and people travel from all over the world to come see them. Thousands of people gather to watch these processions that depict The Passion of Christ. There is a whole text book worth of information you can find on this celebration but the most interesting is that most don't believe in what they are supporting or have no idea what it is really about. The brotherhoods (the guys dressed in hoods and robes) lead these processions, each float is unique and antique, they shadow a scene from the life of Christ. There is incense wafting from every direction and the sound of drums echoing off the buildings is very intense. It was really eye opening. This holiday has opened up the door for many conversations in a way that was non threatening. I love how God uses every little thing as a tool.

All three of us have been working diligently on our Spanish and excited about opportunities to use it. Recently we were asked if we would be able to take care of a young lady's two older children for a couple of weeks while she returned to Colombia for a funeral. We agreed. It has been busy but a lot of fun. They are great kids and blend well with all we have going on but, they only speak Spanish so, we have had plenty of practice. It's actually been great. We get to ask all kinds of questions and they are very gracious when it comes to our words or phrases. They have school daily and sports training so it was easy to just shuffle them all together. Pray that we can be a consistent example of God's unconditional love to them. Also pray that we would continue to be able to have more Gospel conversations with the people around us. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

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