

Winter at the intercontinental border!



Well then, how did the 1st month of 2019 go for you? Abigail, (3 years old), has approached the new year with unbridled optimism. She has shown us her great capacity for learning Sunday school songs and also for languages, as her first semester in a Spanish pre-school has made a big difference in her Spanish. We thank the Lord for Abby's life and for all the ways that she does make a difference in our lives.



This past Christmas season gave us many opportunities to invite people to the activities that we organized or were participating in. We had unsaved neighbors participating in Operation Christmas Child at our ministry center which was very encouraging and almost surprising. In fact, there were 27 shoeboxes by the time the deadline came to send them off the Western Sahara and Togo. And thus our daughters could see very tangibly how Providence works, how our God supplies all our needs according to His riches in glory. (Philippians 4:19)

(Photo credit: Samaritans Purse)



There was lots of Christmas cheer to spread around. Sarah Ruth did a wonderful job at quality control and she helped us ensure that each of our shoebox gifts carried a

French Gospel of John (as the boxes from Spain were destined to Francophone countries this year. bottom-left photo credit: Samaritans Purse)



Above: Sarah Ruth, Abigail and JD were recruited to participate in a Christmas play in a historical, biblical church near the border of Gibraltar.

Ministry at our church-plant: Our goal to establish a Bible-teaching ministry center, that would be serving the community is a reality now. We have a store-front to serve from and a weekly rotation of activities. There is so much to be thankful for. One BIG prayer request would be that more people would come through the door.

Sunday Services at Agua Viva: Our services begin with a call to worship and Scripture reading, followed by our praise time, which is sometimes bilingual, as some Sundays we have more English speakers than Spanish speakers. Other Sundays the Music and Bible teaching are all in Spanish. This December and all the way up January 6th, we enjoyed singing through many of the old carols that are so full of rich imagery of the birth of Messiah. Everyone who attended also enjoyed digging into the Messianic prophecies and all of their fulfillments in the New Testament and in the person of Christ Jesus.

Maybe John Wayne but not the Lone Ranger.

Some of you reading this know very well what it means to live many years outside of your culture of origin. In the new culture one goes through several phases of adaptation and tinkering to see what mission methods work or don't work. In our case, Sara and I are noting the need to have other members partnering in our church-planting effort. We enjoyed a great kick-off to our ministry center, which was opened June 1st, as we had quite a number of foreign helpers and visitors helping to get the ministry off the ground this past summer. Now if only they all had missed their flights and had to stay and help us for good! But seriously, we were very encouraged this summer having helpers assist in getting our first activities started, and we also have had a number of locals drift through or come to visit, and with the Fall season the novelty of our ministry center seems to have worn off. With time, it was obvious that some visitors were coming to see what they could get out of us as the Western missionaries. Sara grew up with these situations all the time in Mexico and JD has written on this very subject, but beyond all our stories in missions there is a

simple prayer request.

Please join us in prayer as we continue down this faith journey that God will send the right workers which this ministry needs.

Please pray for our weekly meetings at Agua Viva: Sunday worship service and Sunday school, Tuesday morning Spotlight English Club, Tuesday Biblical Languages Class, Wednesday Bible Study, Thursday Kids Art and English/ Spotlight for adults, discipleship meetings and other meetings that keep us running here and there.

Praise reports: There have been a number of children and young people, both local kids and immigrants, with whom we have been able to be a witness to over the last year and a half. We have a growing list of names to prayer for, even though we have to be discreet with using their names and photos for a number of reasons. Our [English Action Camp](#) alumni are already anxious to know this summer's dates. This is an encouraging sign of progress here in Andalucia, as the families we have been given the opportunity to invest in, come back looking for us. We are praying that the same team from San Diego, CA can return again to serve as counselors this coming July, with God's help.





We are almost a year and a half into our Bible study in the Gospel of John. Our little group of participants will be reaching Chapter 10 this February. We thank the Lord for the springs of living water that are to be found in John's Gospel each week that we meet.

Our church-plant has also enjoyed the visits from other ministry workers who have contributed to the health of the Los Barrios church-plant (pictured bottom-left: Tim & Holly Nyquist)

Also, we have had opportunities for service, fellowship and preaching at other churches in Cadiz Province. Below, top right, JD preaches on Matthew 1 & 2 in La Linea, Spain.





Continued prayer request: What we are still praying to see here is for un-evangelized local people to come in contact with the Gospel and to trust Christ. We have handed out thousands of tracts, informative fliers, invited people to activities personally, and have reached well over 100,000 of our neighbors through online outreach, but still, the people have to decide to bring themselves to church or to at least seek us out. Your prayers and support in this matter do matter very much. Please pray for the Lord to work on the hearts of the people who need to come to saving knowledge of Him.



JD seems to be getting his slide-projector all ready for next furlough. Beware churches!



This is an evangelistic video that Marcos Lee Photography did for our ministry with which we have able to reach people online and in our area with the Good News.

THE BENNETT FAMILY



AGUA VIVA
CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR

