

A July to Remember



Dear Friends,

Agua Viva Church Plant

In June, we celebrated one year that our church-plant has had its doors open to the public. We are grateful for all the people who have passed through and heard the Good News, and we also pray for those who have ventured in for outreach activities, that the Lord would work on these people and draw them to Himself.

In case you need a refresher, our basic ministry here is running Agua Viva Christian Family Center in the Campo de Gibraltar region of Cadiz Province. Where we serve, we have a small church-plant and neighborhood outreach activities like children's art works shops and English conversation clubs. Our little church plant is trucking along and we are seeking to be obedient before successful.

Summer News 2019

As summer vacation loomed before us at the close of the school year, we knew that the coming recess from the school calendar did not mean we were taking a

vacation! In fact, our schedule intensified towards the end of May and into June as we began a third English class, this one being *English for Arabic Speakers*. It would take a paragraph to explain how this came about, but know that the Most High is on the move and that we saw His fingerprints all over bringing the Arabic speaking community to us and to our church plant building during the last several weeks before school let out. We continue to be in awe of doors that are opened to us allowing Sara and I to be witnesses of Jesus to North Africans. Our English clubs even received a boost from our friends at Radio Vida 95.1 FM, who aired free commercials for our English conversation clubs at Agua Viva.

Our first Vacation Bible School in Los Barrios

From July 13-22 our family enjoyed all the help poured out to us by our summer missionaries from Redlands, CA. Our team for Vacation Bible School did a great job getting organized beforehand, coming focused on their agenda, which included not only performing a daily puppet show for the children, but also blueprints constructing their own puppet theater, sewing curtains, flyer distribution, prayer walking, transporting us important ministry materials, installing cabinets in our ministry center, and sharing testimonies and special music at church.

The children who attended basically came from three neighborhoods in the Campo de Gibraltar region, one group were the local Los Barrios kids who knew us from English or from our daughter's school. Then there were kids who we occasionally pickup for church events in Algeciras. All of these children needed rides each morning, which required lots of calling and planning. And finally, we had a faithful handful who came early each morning from the church in nearby La Linea.

The most important thing that was happening was that the children, a mix of African and Spanish backgrounds, got to hear the Gospel in words that they could understand. Even a Christian mother who has her children in Sunday School each week teared up when talking about what the VBS had meant to her two sons. For first Vacation Bible School in Los Barrios it was very encouraging. Our annual English Action Camp also was well attended. There were 50 of us, counting counselors. Both events were very interesting because one could sense that it was a spiritual battle for souls, although on the outside we were having fun games and songs. On several occasions we were reminded that this wasn't just crafts with kids,

that a battle was going on in some of these children.

In the end, both activities proclaimed the Gospel, so we are encouraged with our measured progress of sharing the Gospel among Spaniards, North Africans and with children from other backgrounds, too. As always, any progress did not come easily, it was a result of prayer, hard work and lots of people helping these projects going forward, from our monthly partners, to local partners to volunteers from Los Barrios and California, it has been a team effort and we appreciate all the people who were involved (like donors and partners we don't even know!).







"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." 1 John 1:5

"The heavens declare His righteousness,
And all the peoples see His glory." Psalm 97:6

Photo credit: Lyle Detwiler Photography

Light and Darkness. We mentioned in our last newsletter how our theme for this summer is: John 8:12 - "*Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*" Now that we have held 2 different weeks of outreach with two teams, we can look back and see how the Holy Spirit led us to teach on this truth. Today it seems that minors here are swamped with the message that darkness isn't that dark, immorality isn't that immoral and sin isn't that sinful. How grateful I am to the

summer missionaries like Micah and Kate, to name two, who helped get this message of the Light of the World, and our only hope in Jesus Christ, across to so many young people who have only known darkness.

As Sara and I continue on this faith journey we see how true it is that men have loved darkness rather than light, and we are reminded just how narrow and lonely the path is that leads to eternal life, but what a joy it is to know our Savior who is the one and only way, truth and life, who lights the way to the Celestial City.

Jesus reminds us: "Because Narrow is the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing." Matthew 7:14-15

Friends, here is the link to the **blog** from our team from Redlands, California. It is fun, even for us, to read about the Vacation Bible School and mission trip from the perspective of our friend, Morgan Vandiver.

<https://www.trinityonline.org/spain-mission-trip-2019/a-long-day/>



Enjoying lots of "first time visitors" to our church plant while the teams were here this July. it was a big encouragement to all of the locals.



Here is a highlight video made by our friend Pastor Lyle Detwiler. It gives you an idea of all of the fun (and perseverance) that our camps at Los Naranjos require. If you watch until minute 2:50, you can see how we got to teach the kids an object lesson of Jesus being the true light of this dark world. John 8:12 was the very appropriate theme for the week!



These Links all work:



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Andalucia Project July 2019.*

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