

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize...



Happy *Cinco de Mayo*, amigos!

Trivia Question: Who is celebrating *Cinco de Mayo* here and in what year?

Now on to the serious news:

On April 24th, I (JD) had to make some decisions with the leadership of Los Naranjos Christian Camp to cancel *English Action Camp* this summer. When I hung up the phone and began drafting the *Cancellation and Refund Letter* to the parents in Seville Province who had signed up this winter, I felt different emotions tug at me: disappointment, sadness and helplessness. As I felt these feelings go through me, I recalled how Dr. David Jeremiah shared a similar experience that week. He said he was up early with his wife and sitting with her when the weight of the cancelled Resurrection Sunday services on campus at Shadow Mountain Community Church hit him and he teared up for a moment.

For those of us who follow Christ, we know that we have a High Priest who can and does sympathize with our humanity and with what we are going through. "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:14-15)

What can Sara and I learn from all the disappointing events in the last few months? We are learning that if we are committed to the will of God, we don't have to fear, or

worry, or get angry about disappointing circumstances and big changes in how we thought things were supposed to go. We can have peace and contentment because we believe that God never changes.

Encouragements during the Plague





God is Powerful and Punctual.

Sara and I were particularly impressed with God's timing and what God pulled together on the day before Spain's State of Emergency that basically prohibited leaving our house. Our ministry center, which has received very little local support in these first couple years, was offered a truck full of school supplies and puzzles right before the whole Kingdom of Spain was put on lock-down. Because of the donation, we were able to scrape together a community event to distribute school supplies and we ended up having our largest turnout ever by our immediate neighbors, over half of which had no previous affiliation with our church-plant. Also, we were able to do follow-up with the school in Algeciras that invited members of our little circle from Agua Viva to do an assembly last Fall. Both students and teachers were very happy to have received helpful supplies like puzzles and coloring books before the lock-down. What we could not foresee at the time was that many families were going to need those school supplies very badly as they would all be doing "homeschooling" starting in early March. Many families also would not have been able to buy office supplies if they had wanted to, as only basic grocery stores were open. Looking back in hindsight we could only see what God was doing with a truck full of puzzles, coloring books and school supplies after the whole country was put on lock-down just a few hours later.



We celebrated our 9th anniversary on April 30th.

Online English Club Outreach. Back in February, Sara held her *Friends and English Club*, and only one Spanish lady came that day, but Sara came home glowing. (Remember this?) That morning she found herself sharing the gospel one-on-one with a woman who told Sara she has considered herself an

atheist, but her experience at Agua Viva has her searching for truth. A follow-up to this is that Sara loaned her a great Christian book and she read it. During quarantine, she has been one of our students encouraging us to stay in contact with them, helping to convince us do our English conversation club over Skype. Several students, like this woman mentioned above, have been enthusiastically participating as the conversation club gives those who have been locked in their apartments since early March, a way to feel that someone cares about them. For this reason we are seeking to live our testimony to those who are burdened and seeking answers in life.



One of JD's three birthday cakes. This celebration was with our English club in Los Barrios. The last time that the government allowed us to meet was the week after this, on March 11th. We now meet for Spotlight English through videoconferencing.



Sarah Ruth turned 8 years old in late March. It was her first time not having a birthday party, but she received a string of birthday wishes through voice messages and videos. Pictured is when Sarah Ruth won her first medal and was very excited about it.

Prayer Requests:

COVID-19 effects on Spain. 25,264 people have died now from the virus in Spain, and 230,000 have tested positive. The country has suffered some of the worst reported devastation per 1 million inhabitants. So we pray that this country would humble itself, that Spain would pray and seek God's face and turn from their wicked ways.

Pray for our contacts in Spain & Gibraltar: For God to accomplish His will with the people we are praying for and sharing the Good news with.

Please pray for us to trust God's plan despite many changes like the mandatory closure of our ministry center for the last two months and the cancellation of English Action Camp.

Pray for our family to keep our eyes on the author and finisher of our faith, remembering that though the darkness may come, that the Son also rises.



All our love,
JD, Sara, Sarah Ruth & Abigail Mae Bennett