

thewhitesinspain

Sept 2017

Dear St James,

We have been back in Granada for a few weeks now after a busy 6 week visit to the UK. It was a good trip travelling from east to west visiting friends, family, churches and making new friends along the way. We are sorry we couldn't come to see you in the Liverpool this time but we really needed to visit people in the South where we haven't been for 2 years.

The August drizzle made a nice change from the 48 degrees we had in Spain! It was exciting to connect with 2 new churches and to meet people with the same heart and vision. One amazing divine appointment happened when I was preaching for the first time in a Baptist Church in Chew, Somerset. There were only 20 adults and one of them came up to me after the service and said, 'I live in Spain!' It turns out he has lived for 12 years near Malaga with his wife and kids and help lead a church there. God connected our hearts and 2 weeks later they were spending the weekend with us in our home here!

The Small Things

I have been meditating recently on Luke 13:21, Jesus compares The Kingdom of heaven to a woman who took yeast and mixed it through dough until all the dough had been mixed. We carry the Kingdom of Heaven, this invisible mystery that has infinite power to transform, heal, restore and bring hope and a future to our world. I was impacted by how the woman had to work the yeast until it was properly mixed. Sometimes our life here seems very insignificant, normal, dull even. Living the routine of family life with 2 small children,



school runs, cleaning, cooking, shopping, fixing cars etc yet as we do this we are working the Kingdom yeast throughout our community. Mother Teresa said, "Do small things with great love" That is our passion to love each person we encounter in our day with a burning heart that comes from Our Father, to be quick to listen and slow to speak and when we do to speak life to the gold hidden in every person. This takes time, means getting out, getting dirty, into people's lives and inviting people to share ours.

Not being silent

Just before we left for the UK I was in a phone shop sorting out our internet. I was being served when a lady came in and started complaining to the 2 women working behind the counter. She got angrier so I said to serve her first. 1hr later she left with one of the staff in tears. I got home and felt that this shouldn't happen in my town and felt God say to do something about it. The next day I returned to the shop, slightly nervously, with a bunch of flowers. There were other customers but I gave them to the ladies and said sorry for what had happened. I said 'thank you' for the job they were doing and said that 'they are precious and should be spoken to with respect.' They both cried, we hugged and I think they had a better day! It was a small thing really that only cost me my pride, some time and 10 euros but it got me thinking what would happen if I did that every day! If when I saw injustice or a spirit that I don't like in my community rather than going home and praying that actually I might be supposed to do something about it! Please pray that we can take these opportunities to honour and love people.

Back to School

The boys have been back for over a week and things are going really well. It was a hard day for us when Leo started his new school, seeing him confused and a bit upset. However, he has settled in really well and comes home happy. Please pray for opportunities with the parents of his classmates. Leo is by far the most able in his class of 5 which is specifically for children with additional needs. We know something of what the parents are living and want to love and encourage them. We also want to see the 'God of the Impossible' do things that the doctors say can't be done!!

Keeping Momentum

Things have started quickly, we have already had 3 lots of visitors, from Finland, Spain and the UK. We are meeting daily and have had lots of time visiting the families in our community for meals, playdates etc. We are going to start having meetings in our house every 2 weeks and other gatherings away from our house the other weeks. We want to give those with a hunger as much opportunity as possible to come and worship and hear God together. This brings with it practical challenges, please pray we find a rhythm that works and that people will see this as a priority. Its challenging engaging 25-30 children and adults with toddlers through to 10-11 year olds. We have always wanted to model church where the whole family do it together but it is hard to balance the needs of everyone. We need a lot of wisdom and 'God ideas'!

Team is everything

In August we went up the Sierra Nevada near Granada to watch the finish of one of La Vuelta de España stages. It was a 'short' 160km stage and after a huge early climb the cyclists were racing up a 28km hill that started at 900m and finished at nearly 2500m altitude.

We watched Chris Froome (pictured in the red) fly past with his team. He went on to win the Vuelta being the first man in history to win the Tour de France and Vuelta the same year. It amazed me how his team mates worked so hard for him so he could get all the glory at the end. No one remembers their names but they



committed everything to help him get there. It is a great picture of how we need each other, how as we lay our lives down to see others realised into their dreams we all win. We are so grateful for Dave, Kellie and their kids who are journeying with us, but also, how it's all for the Glory of God at the end. We don't want to be remembered but we want everyone to know the name of Jesus, 'If the son of man is lifted up He will draw all men to himself!' That's our prayer!

Thank you so much for believing in us and joining us on the journey,

Love Chris, Liz, Leo & Samuel