



July 2019

THE GOOD SAMARITAN



Long, hot, sunny days—everything is reminding us that summer is here, and like the ants who even without a boss, work hard so that nothing will be lacking in winter, so we gladly invest our energy in our daily work for God.

"Go to the ant, oh sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest." Proverbs 6: 6-8

CENTRAL PENINSULA CHURCH

The team from Central Peninsula Church was once again with us. Kenneth, Steve, Ricky and Ross were here from May 27th until June 3rd, teaching a training course on "Biblical Counseling." Ten units of material dealt with interesting topics such as our identity, identifying needs, conflict resolution, and how the Holy Scriptures and Jesus Christ can help us. The training also focused on identifying the basic phases in personal growth, the typical "unmet needs" corresponding to each phase, and how that affects our whole existence, especially in persons who tend toward addictions.



They dealt with biblical therapeutic alternatives, and with how the famous "12 steps" can be harmonized with a biblical perspective. In addition to the technical staff of the Good Samaritan Association, leaders from other evangelical entities and ministries involved in addiction treatment and biblical counseling attended the teaching sessions.

Simultaneously, we held an alternative program with the residents of the center and several of the therapists from CPC, where residents received therapy, and had a time of reflection and sharing of experiences, since the counselors were also rehabilitated men.

During the remaining days, we had a church meeting dealing with topics of general interest, to which we invited friends and acquaintances, and a good group of people attended. Sunday, they shared God's word and their testimonies, and we finished our meeting enjoying a meal together.



Another reason we are grateful is the donation that allowed us to install the much larger water pumping and storage tank capacity, so that we may have sufficient potable water at the center. With the recent droughts and high temperatures, that has been a vital project, for which we thank the whole CPC church for its help and identification with our labor. Many thanks!

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DRUG DAY – 26th of June

Our association was present on the main street of Pozoblanco, with an information table about the various challenges emphasized in the campaign #RetosAdicciones, "Addiction Challenges," in order to raise awareness of the issues considered most important and urgent in that sector. This same campaign also saw the participation of many entities that form part of the ENLACE Federation.



The one that received the most votes was #AdiccionesMujeres, "Women & Addictions," followed by #AdiccionesEmpresasInserción, "Addictions & Businesses helping with reinsertion," and #AdiccionesCriminalización, "Addictions & criminalization." All involved sought to improve the addiction-prevention and treatment programs already in existence in Spain. Those passing by voted for the challenge that seemed most important to them, and pictures were offered, in frames that said, "A Drug-free Pozoblanco!" They also signed an anti-drug poster that said, "I say NO to drugs."



MARC

A Testimony:

Hi, my name is Marc and I am from Northern Ireland. I am studying Spanish and Portuguese during a year abroad as part of my university degree. Since I study two languages, I had to divide the year into two parts: from September until February, I studied in Oporto, Portugal, and from February through June I worked as a volunteer with the Evangelical Christian Church and the Good Samaritan Association, in Pozoblanco, Spain.

A typical week for me, in Spain, consisted of being at the “Good Samaritan Center” from Monday through Thursday. As a volunteer at the center, I worked alongside the residents, and supported them in their process of recovery.

Thursday afternoons, I would go to the Bible study and prayer meeting at the church in Pozoblanco. Fridays I went to the church to practice the songs for the Sunday worship service, and also I worked in the office translating a book that dealt with the 12 steps of recovery. Saturdays, I would go out with a group of local cyclists. Since I am a cyclist, I brought my bike to Spain to take advantage of the good climate! Every Saturday, we would go out and ride about 100 kilometers (60 miles). On Sundays, I attended the church, where I played guitar during the worship.

I thank God for the opportunity to spend four months in Spain, working with the church. It was an unforgettable experience, and I have a lifetime’s worth of memories. I can certainly say that God has been faithful. He helped me, sustained me and blessed me during these months. It was impressive to see how God is working in this part of Spain, and I will keep praying that the Pedroches Valley may be transformed and that the church may continue growing and reaching the people of this area.





How to help:

The greatest need right now is to find finances to cover the salaries of our hired staff. We continue to pray for God's provision and that donors be raised up for that purpose. We encourage possible collaborators to use our support systems—adopting an olive tree, purchasing our olive oil, or making a direct donation.

www.buensam.org

Many thanks to those who have already responded!

**Thank you for being part of this ministry, even from
the distance. Blessings from all the team.**

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