



April 20, 2023

The pictures are from my time at Salma's house



Salma explained that you drink the soup and eat 7 dates to break the fast and then you can enjoy the other foods. It was all delicious!



Relationship not Religion

Thank you for praying for me to have an opportunity to visit with my Saharawi friends during Ramadan. The Lord answered that prayer! I was invited to Salma's house on Sunday evening for iftar - the evening meal where they break the fast. It was a very sweet time together with her and her 3 kids. She had prepared a meal of soup, breads, dates, cheese and crepes made by her daughters. I loved asking questions, listening and learning about her life and culture. She explained things that she likes about Ramadan and things that are hard for her. When she learned that it was my first time having iftar, she felt very honored that I experienced it with her and her family. At one point she mentioned my religion and how me and Pedro's family are different from others. I explained that we don't have a religion, but we have a relationship with God and God has given us love for her and others. We laughed together as she jokingly shared that her youngest daughter (who is 8 years old) eats breakfast then does Ramadan, then eats lunch then does Ramadan, then breaks the fast with the rest of the family at 9pm. :-)

I am so thankful for this precious family and the time we can spend together. Please keep praying for them to one day experience a relationship with God through the sacrifice of Christ.

PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS:

- * Praise God for the visit with Salma and her family! During our time together she shared her perspective of needs of the Saharawi community in Jerez and ways that we can serve and love them. Please pray for wisdom as we consider these things, for continued deepening of friendships, for more spiritual conversations, and for many to see Christ for who he really is.
- * Praise God for a quiet weekend where I could rest and connect with many of my family members over video calls.
- * Pray for this upcoming weekend as we will host my Unit Leader and another worker. Please pray for fruitful meetings and sweet times of fellowship. Pray also for the conference that we will attend next week. May the Lord use all these things to advance His Kingdom work.
- * Pray for wisdom and creativity as we plan to host a short term team at the end of June. Pray also for the team members who will come - that the Lord will provide for their needs, prepare their hearts and use them for His honor and glory.
- * There is a program called Vacaciones en Paz where Saharawi children are able to leave the refugee camps over the summer to stay with host families for about 2 months. I have a meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, to learn more. Please pray for the Lord's direction as I consider hosting a child this summer or next. I am thankful that He already knows and will lead one step at a time as I seek His will.