



August 28, 2023

1. Yusef's farewell gathering with friends
2. All the bags he took with him (what a contrast to his arrival with only a sparsely filled backpack!)
3. Being reunited with his grandma in the camps.

God gives the growth

It is hard to believe that August is ending and so is summer 2023. Thank you so very much for praying for my final week with Yusef. By God's grace, we were able to send him off well with gatherings with friends and many supplies/gifts for him and his family. As the day approached for him to return to the camps, I think he felt it was bittersweet. He was excited to see his mom, younger siblings, and friends, but also sad to leave Spain. I definitely miss having him around but I am thankful for technology and the ability to continue talking via video calls. During one of our first calls he said, "When I was in Spain, I talked with my mom every day so now I will talk with you!" :-)

Before Yusef arrived, I felt the Lord give me Psalm 145:12 as my objective for the time. The verse says, "to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom." Yusef got to see and hear of the mighty deeds of the One True God. He also got to witness how glorious it is to be a part of His Kingdom. I trust that in spite of me, and my failings, and my weakness, the Lord used this time to plant seeds of Truth in his heart. Now I pray 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." May the Lord send others to water the seeds and would the seeds ultimately grow to bear spiritual fruit for His honor and glory.



PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS:

- * Praise that Yusef was loved and valued by so many here and that he could experience a community of believers.
- * Praise that Yusef arrived safely to his home. I thank God that his family is very appreciative of everything and now sees me as part of their family.
- * Please pray for my friend Elsa. She lost her mom suddenly on Saturday, August 19th. Thankfully her mom was a believer, but please pray for Elsa and the family as they grieve the loss. I shared with Yusef what happened and explained how Elsa was sad and she would miss her mom, but she also had peace and felt happy knowing that her mom was in the presence of God. I shared that we are sure that Elsa's mom is now with God because she had received what Jesus did on her behalf. Please pray the Lord uses this in Yusef's heart and mind.
- * This coming week, I want to take intentional time to rest and to seek the Lord's guidance on ministry opportunities this fall. I also have quite a long to-do list of tasks to complete. Please pray that I can rest well, hear clearly from the Lord, and have wisdom in how to use my time.
- * There is an opportunity to visit the camps this fall and be able to stay with Yusef's family. Please pray for clear direction for me and others who are considering this visit. Pray for the Lord to continue to bless my relationships with his family members and for them to receive the gift of salvation.