

September 5, 2023

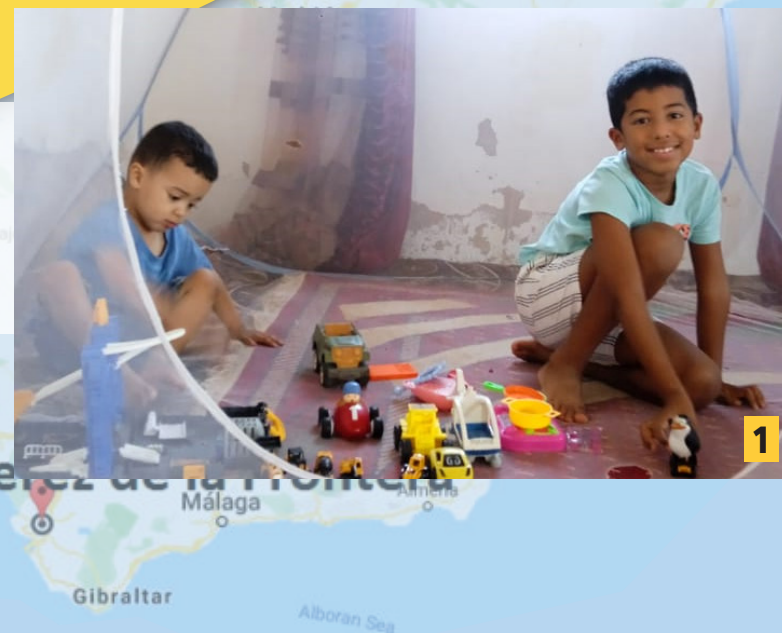
1. Yusef and his brother playing with toys that he brought from Spain
2. Bread from communion on Sunday
3. The sunset Elsa and I watched at the beach,
4. A snapshot as I walked home from the grocery store.



Abundant life

With the start of September comes a winding down of summer, cooler temperatures and all things fall. Thank you for praying for this past week where I rested, spent time with the Lord, and plugged away on my to-do list. It has been a blessed week and I am very thankful for the time!

As I reflect on these past couple months, I feel the Lord has used them to grow my compassion and empathy for women from a Muslim context. I loved hosting my little guy, but as he felt more comfortable, he demonstrated more of the machismo that is common in his context. I felt like I tasted a very small sliver of this machismo, but it was enough to imagine what it would be like to live under that oppressive covering. This past Sunday, we celebrated communion using bread that was homemade by a dear sister in Christ from North Africa. As we celebrated the Lord's Supper, my heart was so encouraged by this one sister's journey from bondage to freedom. I pray that like this dear sister, those living under oppression and shame would come to know the abundant life and honor that is theirs in Christ.



PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS:

- * Praise that Elsa and I got to spend a day at the beach together. We had good conversation as we enjoyed the beauty of the Lord's creation. Thank you for praying for her and her family since the loss of her mother.
- * Praise for plans to spend time with a couple of my Saharawi friends this week. Please pray the Lord blesses those times and conversations.
- * Praise that I could book a trip back to the States this fall for home assignment. I am looking forward to spending time with family and connecting with many of you! Please pray for the Lord's blessing and direction over this time.
- * Pray for the upcoming medical missions trip to North Africa in early October. May the Lord use this to open hearts and meet needs.
- * Pray for the opportunity to visit Yusef and his family at the end of October. May the Lord continue to guide, prepare and bless those relationships for His honor and glory.