



October 18, 2023

1. Celebrating Mercedes' 40th birthday at Tharsis
2. Cooking with Salma
3. Visiting with the guys.

### Praise God from whom all blessings flow...

Thank you so much for praying for the medical missions trip to North Africa. It was quite a week! I will be honest in saying by human standards, it was a total flop. There was confusion/opposition/difficulty with the permissions which resulted in 18 health care professionals sitting in a hotel in a remote area of great need, down the road from a hospital which functions at about 1/4th of its capacity, with strong desires to serve but an inability to do so. It is easy to look at the situation and think, "What a waste! What was the purpose of that? Where were you, God?"

I trust the truth we learn in Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." I trust that God had different purposes than what we envisioned and he completed them in spite of our limitations. While sitting around the hotel, we had some fruitful conversations with dear people who live in a very difficult context. Additionally, during our travel back to Spain, David, Elsa and I stayed at the home of a brother in the Lord. While there, we shared from the Word and God moved in his niece's heart, causing her to put her trust in Christ. We thank God for this dear sister who has now been reconciled to Him and has been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)!



### Jerez de la Frontera

Over the missions trip we ended each meeting with the Doxology and I would like to end this email in the same way.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

### PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS:

- \* Praise God for the work that He has done during the past week! He has been at work in hearts and lives and we choose to trust when we don't understand.
- \* Praise God for the safety that He provided and the many evidences of His grace.
- \* Pray for Pedro and Alfonso who are hosting a different group of doctors in another North African country. Yesterday they saw almost 1,000 patients. Please pray for the Lord to work in and through them for His honor and glory.
- \* Continue to pray for the upcoming trip to visit Yusef in the camps. Yesterday, I learned of an issue with our visa and Elsa and I needed to act very quickly to still have the possibility of going. It is in the Lord's hands so please pray for an open door if it's His will or a closed door if this is not the right time. Isn't Proverbs 16:9 so comforting? "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." May our Lord continue to establish our steps and may we have a surrendered heart to trust in His way.