

Demarick & Beth Patton



June 2024

Praises and Prayer Requests:

- We praise God for the hundreds of conversations and the dozens of times we shared the good news of Jesus with pilgrims.
- Pray for the pilgrims we are still in contact with via WhatsApp; pray we would be able to lead them to knowing Jesus or a deeper relationship with Him.



Caydence stamping a pilgrim's Camino Passport.



Raquel modeling how to make a Mexican bowl to some Korean pilgrims who videoed the event.

Dear friends and family,

This is Beth writing this month.

Nine days ago, we returned from what has become the highlight of our year: a family mission trip in Spain. Both last summer and this summer, we dedicated a week to share the Gospel with people from all over the world who are walking a spiritual pilgrimage called The Camino de Santiago (the way of James) in northern Spain. James (one of Jesus's twelve apostles and in the inner circle of Jesus's three best friends, along with Peter and John) was so changed by Jesus's life, death, and resurrection that he spent years spreading the message of salvation throughout Europe, traveling to then what was known as the end of the world in northwest Spain. There is a theory that James is buried inside a cathedral in northwest Spain, and that is the end point of the pilgrimage.

While some pilgrims walk for five to seven days on the pilgrimage, the majority start in France and walk for a month! Those walking for a month are usually journeying for a very specific reason, and they tend to be very spiritually open. Some have lost a spouse or a family member and are walking in memory of that person. Others are in a transition period in life and are searching for what's next. Still others are simply walking the Camino for historical/vacation/tourist purposes, and it's fun to interact with these "tourist" pilgrims and teach them who James was, and that the Camino wouldn't even exist if it weren't for Jesus. :) They are usually dumbfounded by this news!

The ministry of Cru owns a hostel 75 kilometers from the end of the pilgrimage. It's called "La Fuente del Peregrino" (the Pilgrim's Fountain), and pilgrims can stop to refill their water bottles, use the restroom, get a cup of coffee, sit at the picnic tables, or just rest for a while. We also offer overnight lodging for seven to eleven pilgrims with dinner and breakfast given. As volunteers for the week, we serve from early morning to late at night. We spend time getting to know the pilgrims, asking them many questions about their journey, and then encouraging them in their next faith steps. Sometimes this means praying for a pilgrim and their physical or spiritual needs. Sometimes it means encouraging a Pilgrim to purchase a Bible or download the Bible on their phone and read the book of James. Sometimes we give a full presentation of the Gospel.

About 1300 pilgrims passed by "La Fuente del Peregrino" each day while we were there. I'd say about 500 stopped at the hostel. Each of us had several extremely significant conversations each day. (I'll write out some of the stories next month.) There were tears hourly. God moves each and every day in unimaginable ways.

At the end of the week, we looked at the world map where pilgrims would stick a pin in the place they are from as they entered. 53 countries came through the house during our volunteer week. It's absolutely magnificent. We know the Lord is using this little haven to move people towards knowing and following Jesus.

Thank you for partnering with us to see people from all of the world hear the good news only offered in Jesus!

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"Spurring businesses to fulfill the Great Commission"

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