

OCTOBER 2019



Dear friends,

We thought we'd share with you a snapshot of our last week in order to give you a bit of an idea of our daily life here in Valencia. We are really grateful to God that you pray for us day by day.

Sunday

Julian and Jemima get up early to walk Koda, our dog. We all get ready for church and Julian leaves with Theo. Nicky and Jemima heading off a little bit later. Once at church, Julian preps for the communion service which is in Castellano and Reader, Toni, assists. Nicky is playing the piano today so she practices the songs with Jim on the guitar and Danny who is singing.

After the service we have 'almuerzo' which is a drink and a snack, such as cake, biscuits, tortilla or baguette. This is time for fellowship and it often lasts for well over an hour. Theo organised all the children (both English and Spanish) to play together which was great to see.

We then head off to our favourite little 'spit and sawdust' pizzeria, (€1.80 per pizza!) with Jim, Tanja, Evie and Silas French who are CMS missionaries from Australia, together with three new students from the UK who have joined us at church this year.

Monday

Julian goes out for a run with Koda and Theo goes off to school at about 8:50; he walks on his own as it's just across the road. At about 9:30, Julian starts out for the office he shares with five other missionaries to begin prepping for his sermon this Sunday on Philippians chapter 3. At home, Jemima and Nicky do face painting, a spelling assessment and some maths.

Theo's lunch break is from 1-3pm and we aim to eat our main cooked meal then, as is the tradition in Spain. Julian returns to the office to continue with his prep. While he's there, he orders a copy of our marriage certificate translated into Spanish so that Nicky can go to the police station with proof to show she is married to Julian and obtain her residency card. At 8pm Julian Skype's with two other Spanish pastors so they can pray and encourage each other in their ministry.



Tuesday

Julian heads back to the office to continue working on his talk for Sunday. Nicky teaches Jemima all morning and after lunch sits down to do some more in-depth planning for lessons for the next few months. At about 4:30, Julian and Nicky sit outside to make a short video for one of our supporting churches.

Theo's Spanish tutor, Neus, teaches him from 5-6pm. During this time, Jemima and Julian take Koda to the dog park and Nicky tidies

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up. At 7pm five people arrive for 'Grupo de Vida' (Life Group) - a bible study in Spanish. They go home at 9pm to eat 'cena', their lighter, evening meal. On occasions we have a meal as part of the meeting.

Wednesday

After Julian takes Koda out for a run, he tackles some admin at the computer. At 10am, Nicky has an hour-long Spanish class at home with teacher, Alex and fellow missionary, Jim, so Julian takes Jemima for the hour. She is delighted about this as they make cookies! At 11am a swap happens and Alex teaches Julian. After lunch we read Luke chapter 2 together before Theo returns to school at 3pm.

Nicky goes to the new English bible study group at 7pm with four others, two of whom are students. It's likely to be temporary because everyone who attends hopes to improve their Spanish enough to be able to join a Spanish-speaking group in the near future!



Thursday

Julian has a pastoral meeting with a man from church in a local coffee shop.

An English lady from church joins us for lunch. She brought us fresh figs from her garden. After school, Theo has another lesson with Neus. He also has homework from school. While he does that, Jemima sits with Nicky to do a little extra work from the day. In the evening, Julian and Nicky try to translate a new song for church into Castellano, with some success!



Friday

Theo has a Spanish lesson every day at school except today when he has an hour of Chinese and an hour of French. Julian spends the morning planning Sunday's service in more detail and puts a PowerPoint together. From 11:45, Nicky and Jim have another Spanish class with Alex, then at 1pm Julian meets with him to run through his sermon and any questions either of them may have.

Saturday

It rained in Valencia! So today was spent 'pottering' at home, playing games and watching a film. We also Facetimed friends in England.

At church over the last few weeks we've been thinking about partnership in the gospel in Paul's letter to the Philippians. We're blessed so much by your partnership with us in the gospel work here in Spain and we thank God that the blessing is mutual; *'I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.'* Philippians 1:4-6

With our love, Julian, Nicky, Jemima and Theo.

Prayer points

- Give thanks for a great visit back to the UK in July seeing many friends and family and an encouraging time with some of our partner churches.
- Give thanks that plans for Julian to take over as the Rector at church are coming to fruition with the installation taking place on 20 October.
- Pray for Nicky's language lessons in a new format: private classes with one other student and for her daily lessons with Jemima.
- Pray that Jemima and Theo will continue to feel settled and be used by God to make Jesus known.
- Pray that Jemima will have a good 14th birthday (also on 20 October).
- Pray for Valencia, that more people here will search for, and hear the gospel.