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ESPAÑA

ELLIE FIRTH

Supporting the Development of Spanish Christian Literature

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ONE YEAR ON

Dear friend,

Last week marked my one-year anniversary of arriving in Spain! How time flies! I celebrated the day by having coffee with Irene, one of my language helpers, and lunch with the Gifford family who are also here in Barcelona with CMS. While there are still many 'firsts' to come, as I have yet to be in Barcelona for a full year, it is encouraging to be able to look back on the past year and see His hand over it all. Through all the ups and the downs He is faithful and good. **Praise God for His sustaining goodness, care, faithfulness and grace over the past year.**

At the end of one year my Spanish is a thousand per cent better than it was when I arrived and understood nothing! Now I can reasonably carry on a conversation, that is to say I can understand most things and can manage to communicate (rudimentarily at least!) what I think. **Please pray for my Spanish, for growing confidence in speaking and increased fluidity.**

Now that I have been here a year my 'formal' language time has reduced to two days a week (one day with each of my language helpers) and I have three days a week in the Andamio office, and this will continue to progressively shift over the next few months until I am in the office five days a week. In January my role in the office began to become clearer; I am now solely involved in Andamio, the publishing ministry of the GBU, overseeing the production process of all Andamio's books – from conception to publication. **Praise God for this role He has put me in! Pray that my mind would quickly learn all that I need to, that I would have wisdom in order to serve Him faithfully and well.**

FROM HERE...

As my second year in Spain begins, I am eager to see what He has in store! A few of the things that I am looking forward to are: deepening my understanding of Spanish and Catalan cultures; increasing my proficiency in Spanish language; not moving house (or city, state or country) again for a while; making a friend here; learning more about what it means to be a Christian in Spain; seeing Him at work through your prayers and our partnership. **Pray with me for each of these things, that together we might see His work in Barcelona and Spain, through the GBU, Andamio and the local church here for His glory.**



Language session with Sara



Celebrating one year in Spain with Irene in a local cafe

"Jesus said '...Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me'" John 15:4

The Legend of SANT JORDI

There was once a village that was being threatened by a ferocious dragon. Each day it demanded more and more to eat until there were no more animals left for the king to offer, only young women remained to quench the dragon's appetite. So the princess agreed to be the next sacrifice, but, as in all fairy tales, she was rescued by the valiant knight Jordi who slayed the dragon! Out of the pool of blood of the dragon grew a single red rose, which Jordi gave to the princess.

This legend is celebrated in Catalunya on April 23rd each year, men give women a rose and women give men a book. So Barcelona comes alive with stalls of books (new and used) and rose stands everywhere – even in front of my local metro stop! **Pray that people in Barcelona celebrating the legend of a knight who slayed a dragon would come to know the true dragon slayer Jesus and receive not a rose but eternal life!**

Today as Irene and I walked around the Sant Jordi stalls in the city she asked me what my ideal job would be, my response?, describing exactly what I am doing here and why. I believe that God uses Christian literature in the growth and strengthening of the church. Books impact us in so many profound ways, each book we read shapes us. If books are not in your mother-tongue (your heart language) and written from your cultural perspective or worldview they will impact far less. I am passionate about using the gifts God has entrusted to me to see more Christian books written in Spanish for the Spanish church. What books have you read lately that have impacted you? How have you grown in your relationship with our Heavenly Father as a result? How is He using that growth to further His kingdom through you? **I'm praying that He is daily drawing you closer, revealing more of Himself to you through His word, through books you read, people you meet, through creation... My prayer is that you would see Him at work in your life. And I pray that through you others around you who don't yet know Jesus would be prompted to ask you the reason for your hope.**



The pictures above are of Sant Jordi day in Barcelona! There were rose stands selling real roses and roses made of paper, fabric or wax! Book stalls and lots and lots of people and Catalan flags! ...And me with a dragon outside one of Gaudi's houses!



Thank you for partnering with us to help see
a world that knows Jesus!

CMS

I am serving with the Church Missionary Society (CMS). CMS works with churches to set apart long-term workers to cross cultures to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Over the coming years CMS aims to:

- Reach poorer peoples for Christ
- Equip Christian leaders for church and society
- Engage churches in cross-cultural mission

If you wish to find out how you can further partner with me through CMS in prayer, care, or financial giving, or if you need to update your contact details, please contact CMS below. CMS receives all of my financial support on my behalf, so please send any donations directly to CMS.