

**March 2023**



# **Global Connect Trip Report**

**The Kingdom of Spain** 🇪🇸



# Global Connect Trip: Intro

## Hello Church family and friends,

The following report gives a summary of our Global Connect Trip to Spain this past March (2023).

The primary goal of this trip was to see firsthand the worldwide work of God through our Alliance family. The second aim was to establish connections and friendships with other pastors and/or missionaries in Spain. The more relationally connected we are, the stronger the partnership will be with our missionaries.

With that said, from the moment we landed in Spain our team was on the go! To say we hit the ground running is no overstatement. We were able to see many sites and visit many international workers. We learned that God is doing a significant work in Spain.

In addition, we made meaningful points of contact with workers in the field, including an existing partnership we have with Walter and Laura Hopkins (Life International School).

One of the things I truly appreciated about this trip was the opportunity to reflect on our current ministry at Crosstown, and how we can better connect with the larger C&MA family around the world. To be honest, we have been so busy the last 14 years helping revitalize struggling churches in the U.S. that it's easy to take our eyes off what God is doing around the world. This trip gave us fresh eyes to see what God was doing and how we can be actively engaged with C&MA missions.

We were blessed to go on this trip with other district pastors, and one other pastor's wife. Altogether there were 7 of us:

- Dave Murphy – Northeastern District Church Advance Specialist/Missions Mobilizer
- Danny Fierro – Lead Pastor of Oswego Alliance
- Trevor Smith – Associate Pastor, LaFayette Alliance
- Darren and Kelli Rowles – Hillside Alliance (Ithaca)
- And of course Erin and myself - Crosstown Alliance

In this report, you will find a daily travel log that chronicles some of the highlights from our trip.

As you read through these bullet points may you be as blessed as we were to see how God is still very much at work in the world. This report will help you gain a better understanding of the Spanish culture and, more importantly, allow you to know how to pray for our international workers.

For Christ's Mission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Jeremy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Jeremy



**SATURDAY**

**March 4, 2023**



# 01 Daily Travel Log: Hit the Ground Running!

**Saturday March 4, 2023**

We arrived in Madrid safely at 10:15am (local time) and were met by Walter Hopkins (Director of LIFE International School) and Timothy Westergren (Spain Field Director). From there we visited historical sites with spiritual significance that helped us gain a better understanding of the culture:

Museo Archaeological Museum (Pictured to the right) - Our visit to the museum was very helpful for understanding the different people groups who inhabited modern day Spain. The galleries showed a chronological history of Spain.

Following the museum we went to an Islamic Cultural Center where we saw a Muslim prayer room.

Later that evening we had dinner at Walter and Laura Hopkins' home and heard more about their ministry in Spain.





# 01 Daily Travel Log: Learning the Culture



The National Archaeological Museum in Madrid is the leading museum devoted to the history of Spain.



We then went to a Islamic Cultural Center in Madrid where Tim Westergren gave an overview of the 5 pillars of Islam.



We ate in the basement of the Islamic Cultural Center with a team of international workers who work among Muslims in Spain.



**SUNDAY**

**March 5, 2023**



## Sunday March 5, 2023

Our team worshiped at Comunidad Cristiana De Tres Cantos on Sunday morning. We particularly enjoyed the energetic worship, communion, and “half-time”. Half-time is a brief break halfway through the worship service to promote fellowship. Coffee and cookies were served before continuing the rest of the service.

Following the service we had lunch with Tim & Marilyn Westergren, Walter & Laura Hopkins, and members of the church.

Later that afternoon our team met up with two international workers who are reaching Muslim immigrants. Their ministry offers several types of classes to engage Muslim women and children.

Please pray for *open doors* for these workers to share the Gospel.



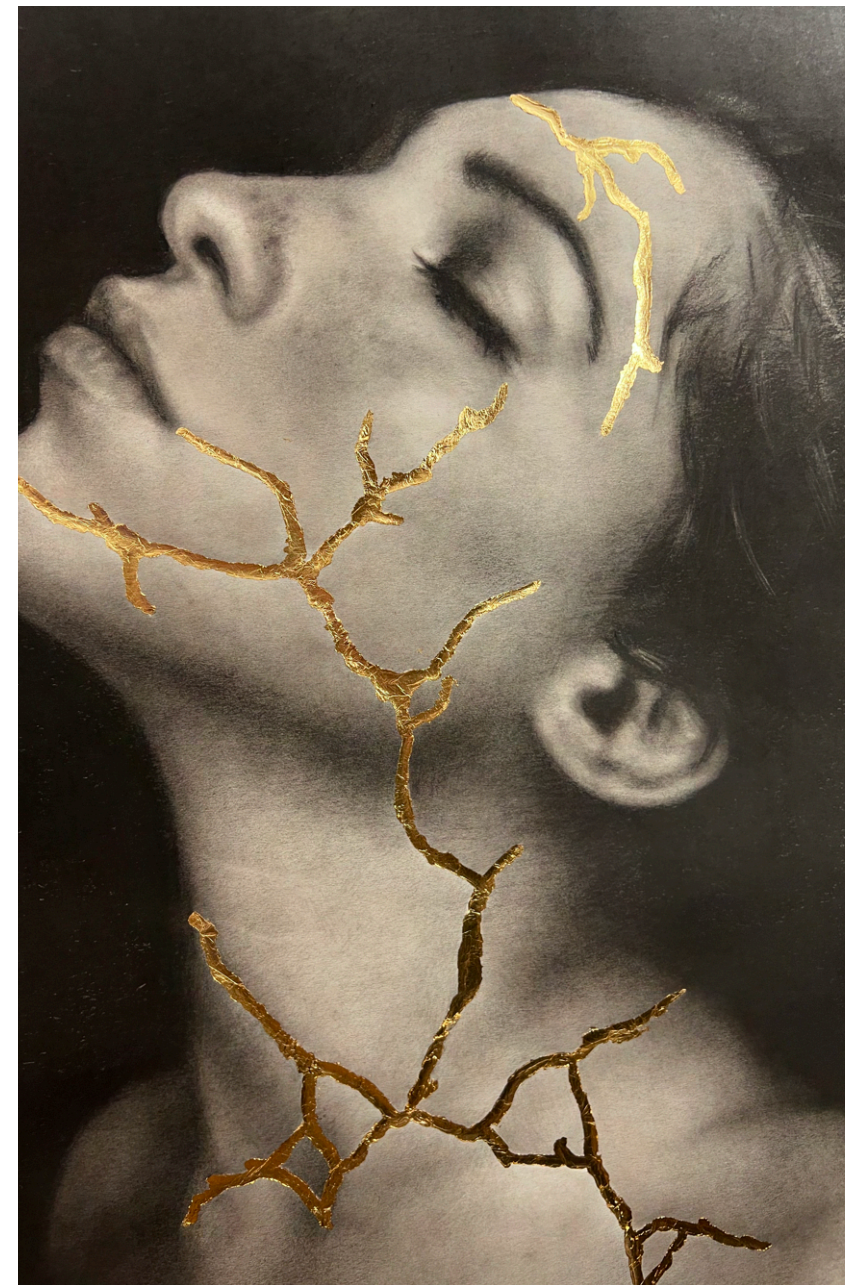




Erin and I had our first Churo for breakfast! The Churos were served with a side of thick hot chocolate! Not the healthiest of options but very delicious!



Our team outside the Castle of Manzanares El Real. This castle is one of the oldest, most preserved, castles in all of Madrid. Dates back to the 15th century.



Pictured above: One of the amazing works of art in Kim Peter's Strawberry Girls collection. This project is bringing awareness to human *trafficking*.



## Kim Peters

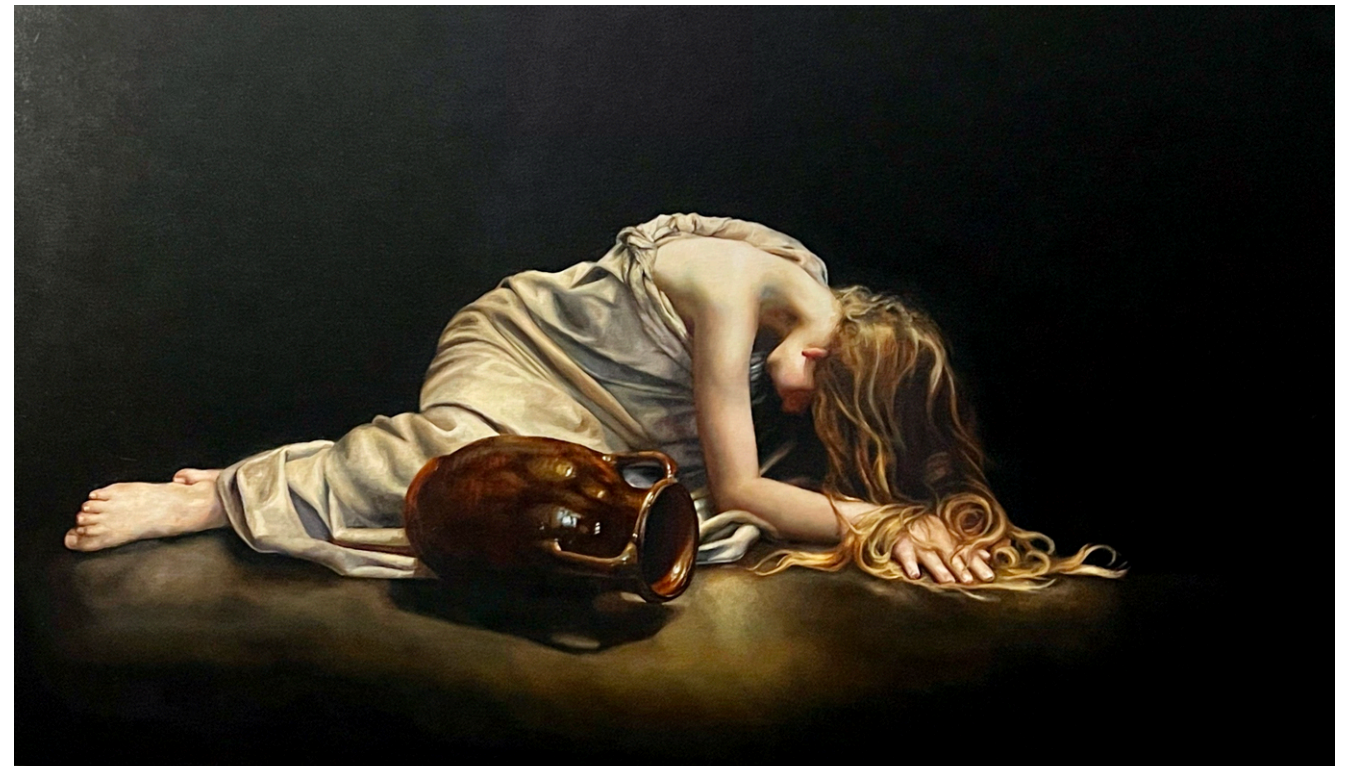
On Sunday evening, our team visited with Kurt & Kim Peters at their home, and had the opportunity to see Kim's art studio.

She is currently working on a collection called, the *Strawberry Girls Project*. Through this amazing art collection Kim and Marci F. are bringing awareness to human trafficking through art and story. Marci is writing the stories and Kim is providing the artwork to illustrate each story.

Kim will need to complete 100 pieces of artwork by December 2023. Please pray for strength, stamina, and creativity for both Kim and Marci.









**MONDAY**

**March 6, 2023**



## Monday March 6, 2023

Before heading south, our team spent the morning visiting LIFE International School in Tres Cantos. Marilyn Westergren and Walter Hopkins shared the history of LIFE school and led a tour of the facility.

**Learn more:** <https://lifeschool.es>

In the spring of 2014, a team of professionals and educators came together with the desire to see a Christian school started in Tres Cantos. In the fall of 2017 LIFE opened its doors to the public offering Preschool through Kindergarten (ages 3 through 5). They have since added up to 9th grade.

The LIFE board of directors are currently looking to move into a more functional and permanent building designed to accommodate the long-term growth of the school. Please pray for God's provision!







On the way to Malaga, Spain (appx. 5hr 30 min. drive) we stopped to see a breathtaking overlook of the city of Toledo.

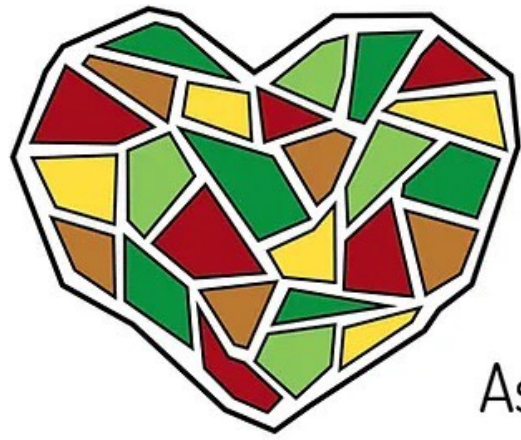


Pictured above: The windmills in the town of Consuegra. We also stopped for lunch at Casa Pepe Restaurant—famous for its memorabilia of the former dictator, Francisco Franco.



Before bedtime we visited a Project AMOR apartment and met some of the young North African migrants/refugees.





# AMOR.

Assistance to Migrants and/or Refugees

On Monday evening, our team visited the home of Jon and Asun Neff. The Neffs serve with Marketplace Ministries as the team leaders of Project AMOR. AMOR offers hope to migrants and refugees in southern Spain.

Jon and Asun embody the idea that “It’s never too late to be who God created you to be”. Jon retired at the age of 57. He and Asun have given the last 15 years of their life serving migrants and refugees. As Asun so eloquently said during our time together, “these boys may lose their jobs, but they cannot lose the hope that comes as we share the Gospel with them.”

Learn more: [www.amoriberafrica.org](http://www.amoriberafrica.org)





**TUESDAY**

**March 7, 2023**



## Tuesday March 7, 2023

On Tuesday morning, we visited with Earnie & Sharon Nicholas from The NET. The NET is a university ministry focused on helping young adults in the Malaga area find Christian community.

**Learn more:** <https://thenetmalaga.org>

Pictured to the right: Earnie and Sharon Nicholas.

Earnie worked as an engineer for 25 years before he and Sharon moved to Spain in 2020 as IWs with the C&MA. He has a master's in divinity and loves to teach the Bible and help others grow in their faith.

Sharon has a master's in violin performance and is a licensed physical therapist assistant. Her favorite job however is getting to know people, and helping them get to know Jesus.



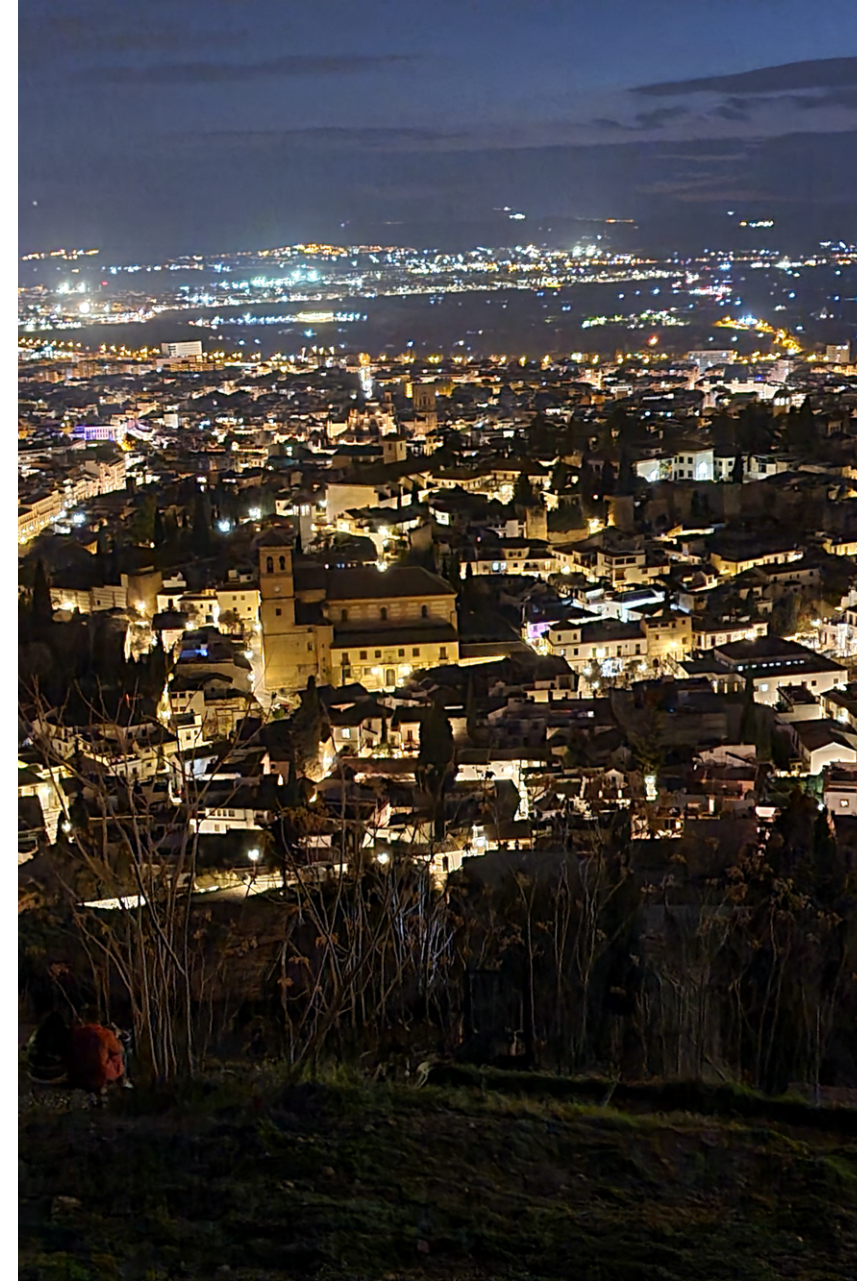




Lunch along the Mediterranean right near where the Nicholases serve. Erin and I tried our first Octopus!



We met the pastor of the Faith Community Evangelical Church as well as 2 church planters who work with CAMA.



Pictured above: Overlook view of the city of Granada. A picturesque reminder to pray for the light of the Gospel to penetrate darkened hearts.



**WEDNESDAY**

**March 8, 2023**



## Wednesday March 8, 2023

On Wednesday morning, our team traveled to Project Bethany House in El Campello, Alicante (appx. 3hr 50min drive). Bethany House is a school designed to raise up the next generation of church leaders. The school uses a curriculum from salt leadership.

In August 2015, Life and Family Church launched a summer school and longer-term resident training program for youth in Europe called Bethany School.

The goal of the school is to help youth know who they are in Christ, hear His call on their lives, and serve Him more effectively in the local church and beyond.

Students live on-site for 3 months and are taught the Bible. Pray for this much-needed ministry that God would continue to multiply leaders and churches.







Before lunch, Patty shared with us the need for a new kitchen. We gathered in a circle and prayed for God's provision.



For lunch, we had the biggest pan of Paella I've ever seen in my life. It took two people to carry it to the table. *So good!*



Juan shared with me their church's story—13 campuses in 17 years! Juan and his wife Patty are IWs serving as church planters sent from their church in Peru.



## Christian Community Church

On Wednesday afternoon, we had the opportunity to tour the Campello Christian Community Church. The church is located in a very strategic part of town. We were given a tour of the facility.

It was at this location, Patty shared the church's vision...

*"It's a small church but in different cities. A family that gathers. People come and quickly we send them out to plant another family".*

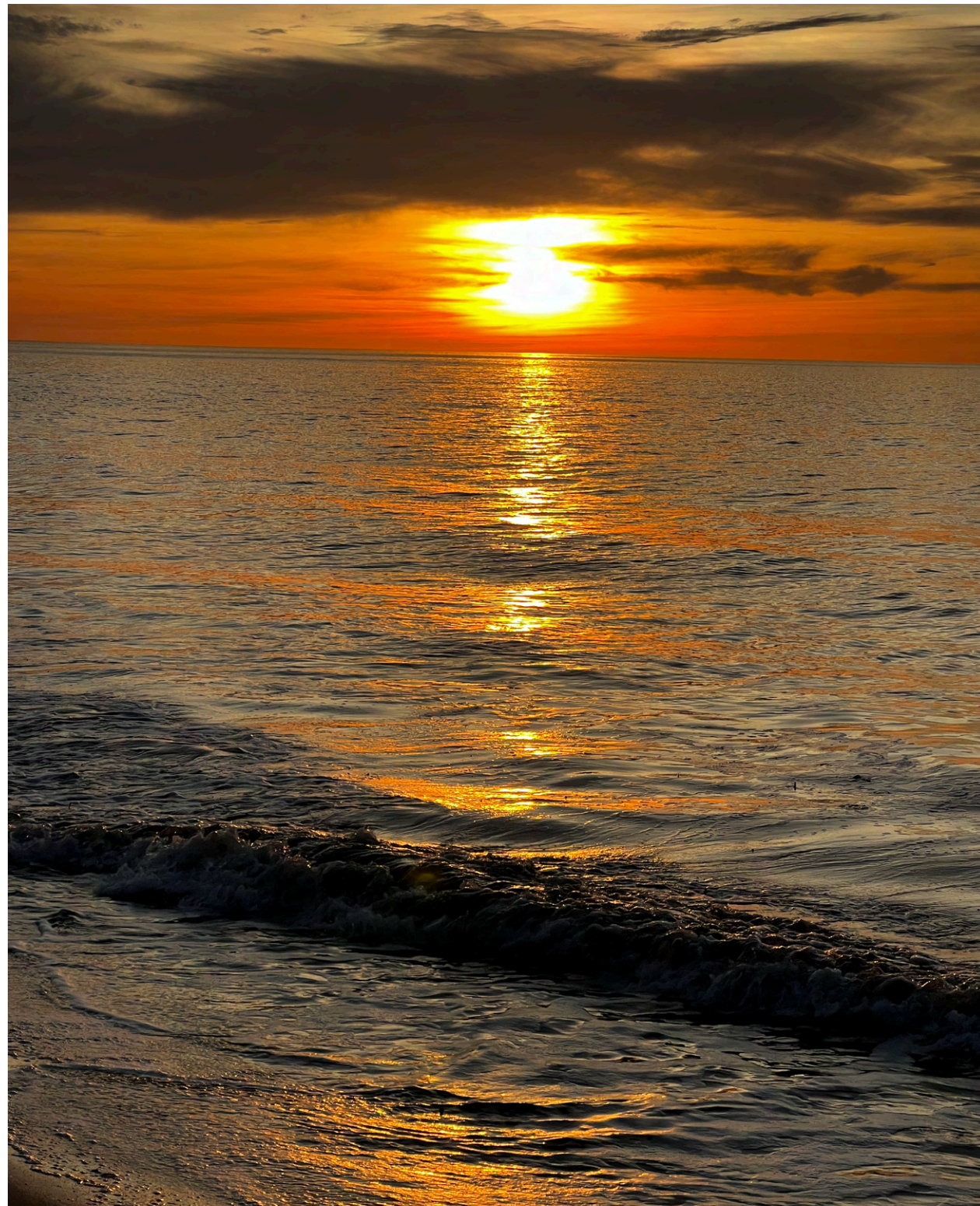
Pray that more churches & campuses would be planted for the purpose of sharing the Gospel!





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# Daily Travel Log: El Campello, Alicante





**THURSDAY**

**March 9, 2023**



## Thursday March 9, 2023

On Thursday morning, we began the trip back to Tres Cantos (appx. 4hr drive). Our team stopped for lunch in Cuenca where I had the best soup of my life! So good! They called it poor man's soup.







After lunch, we walked around the town of Cuenca. Cuenca is known for their “hanging houses”



Pictured above: The Cuenca iron/wooden footbridge over over the Huecar River. It was a little scary walking across the bridge but we made it!



For dinner, we met up with the Hopkins at one of their favorite restaurants—Mary Carmen. Octopus was prepared right in front of us. *What a show!*



**FRIDAY**

**March 10, 2023**



Friday March 10, 2023



We spent the morning meeting staff, touring the facility, and observing classrooms. Pictured above: Water talking to some of the younger students.



Pictured above: Erin using her experience in fitness to lead the kids in stretching.



Team members led devotions for the staff and kids on Friday. Pictured above: Pastor Trevor teaching at student chapel.



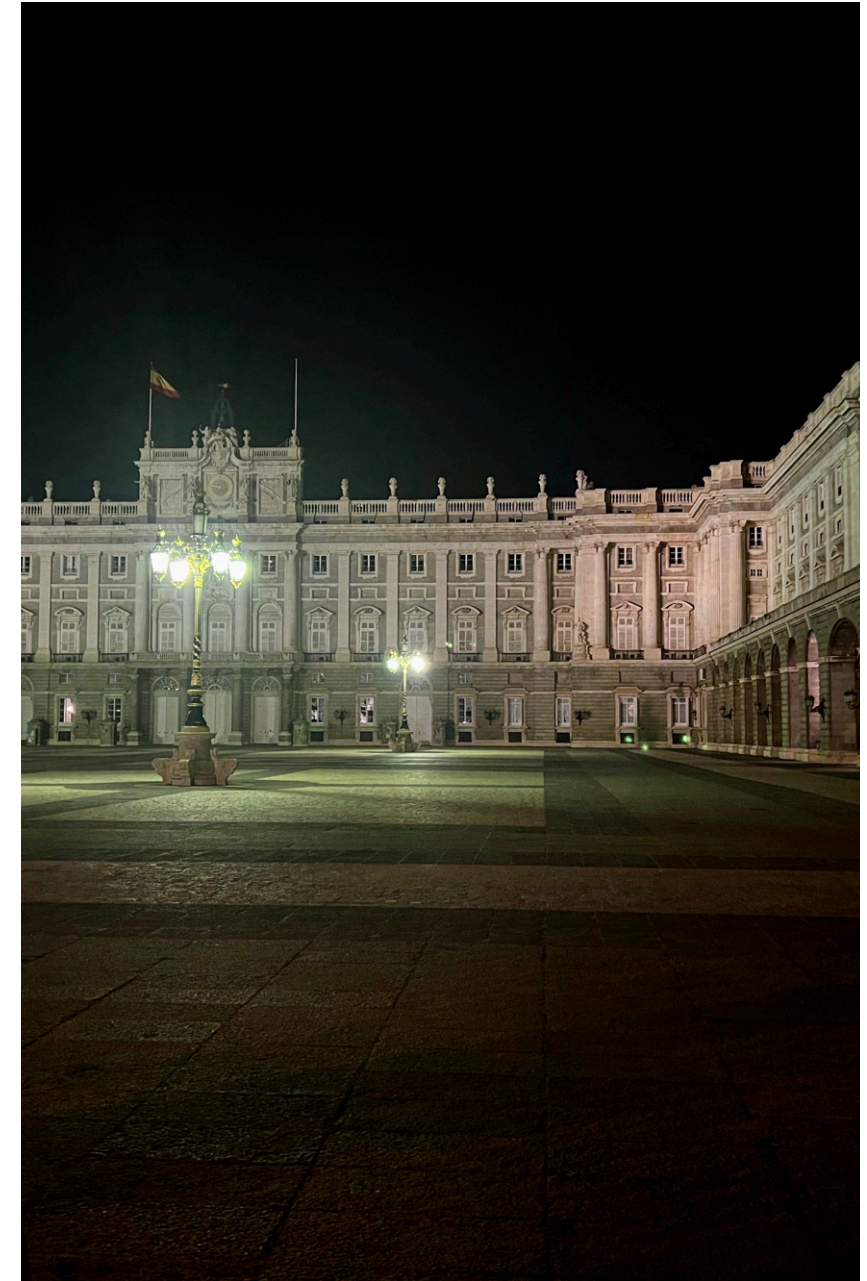
Friday March 10, 2023



Pictured above: Part of our team in front of the City crest/statue—the rampart bear and strawberry tree.



Pictured above: A statue in Madrid's grand central square. The Plaza Mayo is found in the oldest part of the city.



Pictured above: The Royal Palace of Madrid. This Palace is the largest in Western Europe. It has a whopping 3,418 rooms! One of the few residences of Heads of State that is open to the public.







**SATURDAY**

**March 11, 2023**



Saturday March 11, 2023

Facturación Check-in				
Hora	Destino	Vuelo	Terminal	Mostradores
12:45	EINDHOVEN	RYR 6735	T1	355 a 359
12:55	IBIZA	UX 6025	T2	517 a 532
	Compartido: DAL 6770			
13:00	AMSTERDAM	KL 1702	T2	427 a 431
	Compartido: CAL 9390			
13:15	ATENAS	A3 701	T2	409 a 411
	Compartido: TP 7449			
13:20	OPORTO	RYR 7684	T1	355 a 359
	Compartido: TP 7449			
13:30	ISTANBUL SAW	PC 1100	T1	333 a 337
13:35	BRUSELAS	RYR 2948	T1	355 a 359
13:40	LUXOR	AMV 6184	T1	340 a 342
13:40	BEIJING	CA 908	T1	319 a 324
13:40	FRANKFURT	LH 1113	T2	415 a 419
	Compartido: OS 7458			
13:45	LUXOR	MSC 3110	T1	158 a 160
	Compartido: TP 7449			
13:50	TENERIFE SUR	RYR 565	T1	355 a 359
14:00	PALMEROLA / SOT	EVE 867	T1	120 a 125

We headed to the Madrid Airport on Saturday morning. Walter and Timothy Westergren were there to say good-bye.



Pictured above: The Gorhams heading towards their seats on the plane where they will sit for the next 8 hours! 😂



Pictured above: Our airplane with NYC skyline in the background. Our flight from Newark to ROC was delayed 9 hours—so we rented a car and drove home.



# Luke 10:2

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

