



Spring arrives with its sweeping surge of life, filling all around with color and joy. Jesus' arrival into the heart of any person is like that—He bursts in with a spring-like strength of hope, filling our heart with a desire to live and become an agent for change in those around us. That's the kind of stories we will

tell. *Spring is the time of God's smile*, the poet Rafael Santos Torroella reminds us.

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.” (Matthew 24:32).

”Transformed lives that transform others”

The Abrego family:



Rene and Gloria, a retired Guatemalan couple, both psychologists, have four children, all grown and independent. Rene specializes in addictions and community therapies, and Gloria specializes in helping disabled persons.

They both served the Lord for eighteen years in Guatemala, in counseling, discipleship, leadership, Sunday school, pastoral care of missionaries, etc.

The Lord's call brought them to Spain, in response to a presentation about needs at the Good Samaritan that Francis Arjona made in Guatemala ten years ago. In the years after that talk, they became convinced that God was calling them to Spain, even making two exploratory trips to Spain that ended up giving them confirmation.

In 2018 they began the process of leaving Guatemala, and in February of 2019 they arrived in Spain. They are still in the process of adapting, but they have already gotten involved in various ministries, contributing innovations to optimize the human resources in the church in Pozoblanco. Rene is working on redesigning the therapeutic intervention process for the residents of the Good Samaritan Center and their families.

Gloria is developing counseling with psychological therapies for people from the town, doing talks on family topics, designing new projects, adapting material resources to the needs of the church members, and supporting the various ministries of the church.



Men who have done the program:

Luís, 73 years old, from Córdoba, a stone mason by trade, is married and has two children. Due to alcohol, he had to retire early, and the usual marital problems appeared, which led to divorce, a process accelerated by his addiction. His family situation was unsustainable, and the divorce went through. The trauma was so strong that both he and his wife repeatedly attempted suicide, and were hospitalized; thank God, none of the attempts were successful. Chaos was the main note of their lives. Luís entered a private treatment center where several weeks' stay cost thousands of euros, an unsustainable cost for the family.

Luís

When he got to the Good Samaritan Center, Luís was under normal weight, with the psychological state of a defeated man with neither hope nor desire for life. But he satisfactorily completed his program with us, and has been rehabilitated now for 9 years. He tells us, *"I am very happy with all the staff at the Center. There, I received the help I needed. At first, I didn't understand. But there, I got in touch with something real."* Luís attends our church regularly. Presently, he has gotten back together with his wife, they are living happily, he has recovered his dignity and self esteem, and is appreciated in town as a man who has left addictions behind; now he is a happy man. The Bible impacted him so much that he has hand-copied it from Genesis to Revelation, and some books of the Bible he has written out several times. He says, *"I go to church, because I feel like I'm with family, and I feel very well."*

Alberto

A young man of 17, whose parents divorced; from a dysfunctional family, he was semi-abandoned, suffering emotionally from the lack of affection. This young man was raised with trauma, emotional wounds, suffering, and a total lack of values or direction. An evangelical church with passionate leaders tried to help this family, and as part of their approach to the situation, Alberto came to the Good Samaritan Center. He went through the program, in spite of all sorts of difficulties; the church paid for 50% of the cost of his stay, and the Center covered the rest. Today, after finishing the program, and being discipled for life, Alberto is a man "transformed by the power of the Gospel." His hope is to get a job and take care of his younger sister. He has recently passed his studies to be a Clinic Assistant, is doing a practicum, and expects to soon have a job. His church continues to help him, and although he has many challenges ahead, Alberto is now a man with hope, thanks to the power of the Gospel.

Activities:

Dutch:

With the punctuality for which they are known, our “Dutch family” came for yet another yearly visit, with their characteristic joy and the practical and special help they offer us each year in harvesting the olive crop. We have a standing invitation to anyone, especially to those who have adopted an olive tree, to have the experience of gathering in the fruit that helps with these men’s rehabilitation. Many thanks for your help, dear “Dutch family”! This happens every year from the 20th of November through mid-December.

Anniversary:

We celebrated another year ! We have now 24 years on this path, and almost 600 people have been reached directly in their process of rehabilitation. It was a day of celebration; seeing the happy faces is always enough to know that lives transformed by the power of God is the greatest gift we can celebrate. Families re-united, celebrating a reality very different from the day they came into our office, or made that first phone call to us.



Brazilians:

A group of Brazilian brothers, on a prayer tour, visited us. Some of them have been familiar with the Center almost since it opened. They spent a day at the Center, sharing God’s word, praying for those present, and sharing experiences of “**life transformation.**” No matter whether you are Spanish or Brazilian, God is building His church everywhere—He is on a permanent campaign of life transformation, recruiting a whole army for His mission.



Concepcionists:

A Catholic group from the Concepcionists of Pozoblanco visited and shared an afternoon with us at the Rehab Center. It was a time of sharing experiences, getting to know each other better, and above all seeing that there are young people who want to commit themselves to God. For all of us it was a very special and blessed time.



How to help:



At present, we have several residents who have difficulties in being able to pay for their time at the Center. We keep on praying for God's provision and looking for new donors to support this ministry. We encourage new collaborators to use the support systems we already have (olive trees' adoption, purchase of olive oil, or direct gifts) .
www.buensam.org/colabora.htm

If God moves you to collaborate, we encourage you to pray, reflect and take a decision. I have learnt during the last months, that the things we keep for "tomorrow" stay without being done.

[Thanks to those who have already answered !](#)

**Many thanks for forming part of our team,
in spite of the distance.
A big hug from the whole team!**

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