



# The Good Samaritan

*Winter has arrived, when nature “reduces its activity” and prepares itself to endure the cold weather. However, roots keep functioning, so that the whole tree, apparently paralyzed, may continue alive and preparing itself for spring. The leaves fall off, but in their place new ones will spring forth, returning the tree to its normal splendor.*

*Likewise, we, as those persons who continually savor and meditate on the principles and values of the Word of God, will be like trees next to streams of water, giving fruit in due time—our leaves will not wither, and all that we do will prosper (Psalm 1:1-3).*



## **“Preparing for the Journey”**

### **Seminar organized with the Erasmus + Program**

the Youth Ministry of the Polish Baptist Union, which took place in Skoczow, Poland, November 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

Coming from five different countries (Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain), 24 of us met as representatives of eight entities

which work within the framework

of the youth program of the European Union,

with exchanges of youth and/or volunteers. It was very positive to share with each other about our experiences and projects, and to consider possible collaboration among our entities, all evangelical.

We received training through workshops, and strengthened our ties through cultural and leisure activities. This will certainly lead to future collaborative projects.” Nathalie Farelly

“I had the privilege of participating in this seminar organized by



Delegates from Spain



## New item!

Nora and Yeimy, two members of the Church of Pozoblanco, are giving Spanish classes to Moroccans once a week at the church. The students are beneficiaries of the "Dorcas Project."



## Testimony

More than a year ago, Diego and his parents came to our office asking for help. Diego had lost his job as a commercial agent because of drug abuse, and everything seemed broken and hopeless. Nevertheless, he asked for help, and his family supported his being admitted to the Good Samaritan Center.

His parents, although they were very polite and courteous, told me that they were not very religious, and that they had no plans to attend the evangelical church. We respectfully told them that they were free to make whatever decision seemed best to them. However, the first Sunday that they came to talk to their son for a while, since we were about to start the church service, they asked me timidly if they could attend the service. I answered that they were very welcome to attend, and assured them to feel free to leave the service whenever they might want to.

They ended up staying through the whole service, listening attentively. That was exactly a year and two months ago, and from that day on they have not missed a Sunday service. Their son Diego has finished the program; now he is studying at night, and is going to start working at a Pozoblanco business, with a reinsertion program. Please pray for them.

### **This is what Diego said the day of his release from the Good Samaritan Center program, at the Sunday service:**

*"I want to begin by giving thanks to the Good Samaritan team; without them my rehabilitation would not have been possible....Thanks for helping me and teaching me a new way of life, for all that I have learned and the patience you all have had; I ask forgiveness for what I did wrong and for anything in which I have offended you. Thanks to my fellow residents at the Center for their friendship and the experiences shared; they have become good friends. My apologies for any criticism or error toward you, but I have written this letter because of two people (my parents) without whom none of this would have been possible, and today I would not be here....Thanks for all that I received from you, thanks for the life, the love and the happiness you have given me, for what was possible and for what wasn't, thanks, because you are always near me. You helped me even when I didn't deserve it, and you continued sharing your life with me; thanks for the work that you gave me. I want to ask forgiveness for the time wasted, the money misspent, for the hard and useless words, for the empty works and the work poorly done; forgive me for living without enthusiasm, for all the times I forgot things, my neglect and silence, and for my lack of self-discipline. Today I pray to God for me, for my relatives and friends and all those close to me, asking for peace and joy, prudence and wisdom. I want to live every day with optimism and goodness, taking everywhere with me a heart full of understanding and peace; please, God, close my ears to all falsehoods and my lips to speaking any selfish, lying or hurtful words. Amen."*



## European Volunteer Service with the Erasmus + Program

This year we have a volunteer from Norway with us for 10 months. Simon is a pleasant and happy young man; he is learning the language quickly and has connected very well with the church, the youth group and the residents of the center. We want to thank God for young people of such maturity, committed to serving God this way among us in spite of being far from their home church and family.

Our association has also sent a young man to Norway, and a young woman to Northern Ireland. Please pray for the three of them!



### *Good Samaritan Organic Olive Oil crosses borders...*

This fall, in addition to orders from within Spain, we have had the opportunity to send our olive oil to Great Britain, to Luxembourg, and we have an order ready for Switzerland!

A curious anecdote is that we have sold 300 liters of the oil to two Chinese churches in Cordoba and Granada: Lili is a woman full of so much vitality and energy that you easily catch her enthusiasm and faith in the Lord. “Pedro,” the pastor responsible for Andalusia, and another friend from Malaga came with her to our offices to get to know us and visit

the olive oil cooperative.

Although 300 liters is not a large quantity, it is a beginning. They are going to distribute it among the Chinese members of their churches in the south. Please pray for this work.

Also please pray, because we are working on a relationship with a wholesale distributor of food products. His name is Javier, he is from Pozoblanco, and he has central offices in Paris and London. In this way we can deal with all the logistics of transportation and legal issues in Europe and abroad.



## And how about you?

We encourage you to think about buying our oil as a Christmas gift! It would be a good way to invest in health, solidarity and even to speak of Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan with your friends and neighbors.

It is “SMS” oil—for “Sound health, Missions and Solidarity.”

## Prevention is important too...

### Annual Anti-drug Lecture in the Salesian School

As happens every year, we were invited to hold five day-long sessions at the school, where different grades received our drug-abuse-prevention talks. We dealt with topics such as tobacco, alcohol, “designer drugs,” cocaine, etc. On this occasion, a young man who is a member of our church and has just this week become a father accompanied me, to give his testimony about how the Lord got him out of drug abuse. This



combination of information and personal testimony leads to a high degree of acceptance among the students, in the teachers’ opinion. I love this preventive work, although it is hard to measure its effectiveness; it’s great to know that you are keeping some young man from getting trapped by drugs.

### Anti-drug lecture given in Moral de Calatrava, Ciudad Real

300 kilometers from here, in the direction of Madrid, is Moral de Calatrava. In this town of La Mancha, there is a dynamic evangelical church that is salt and light to those around it, and its pastor, José Luís, invited us to come give an anti-drug presentation. Accompanied also by the mayor and the Councillor for Social Affairs, we had a well-attended preventive lecture, in municipal facilities. On this occasion, two of the young men rehabilitated at the Good Samaritan Center accompanied me, and Diego was able to share with the audience his testimony and the process of his rehabilitation.



*These are some things that we as an Association have been doing. Many thanks to all those who have been praying for us and for the residents, and to those who have been giving offerings and buying the olive oil. Thanks to all of you for making a reality out of this dream that began 20 years ago. We continue with enthusiasm serving those around us and above all serving God!*

*Francis Arjona.*

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