

Julie's Jotting

Hi everyone, yes it certainly has been a while since our last update. Michael has already mentioned our dear sister Natali

and her family. Please continue to pray for them. It's so easy for us to say "Keep trusting", but when you've lost everything you've worked all your life due to the greed and pride of a dictator, then it's hard to stomach. I have a very good friendship with Natali and have been with her through the highs and lows. As a church we sent money to Antonio (her son's) mission, and other churches and friends sent donations too. As a family we continue to support Antonio and Natali's brother (recently widowed) with her Mum and his children in Germany. Natali will have no work here next month and so she plans to go and see her family in Germany to help ease her Mum's anxiousness. The family are all believers and her brother, being a pastor, is holding meetings for Ukrainians where he preaches. He was at the Baptist seminar in Kyiv when the Russians first invaded. I continue to have my ladies' meeting most Fridays and I have seen real spiritual growth in the ladies. Mari, who hasn't been to church for years, has started to come to the ladies' meeting and has come back to church too.

I have been talking to the ladies about baptism, so please pray with us regarding this important step. I also meet weekly with 3 other ladies for prayer. Apart from me, one is English, one is Bulgarian and one is Dutch but we all communicate in English. We have been praying for an Englishman called Tom, who is an alcoholic and is sleeping in his car. We were praying about the situation and one of the ladies, Jannie, found him a caravan, but Tom always finds his way to the bar. The bar has now realised his problem and refuse to sell him alcoholic drinks.

The girls are good. Mikayla finishes school and so big decisions have to be made about where and what she should study. Please do pray for her! Again space has beaten me, but thank you all personally for your love and care for us, love, until the next time, Julie



GOSTA CHRONICLES

Michael and Julie's Bi-monthly Missive June 2022

Warts and all!

Dear praying friends,

Time has flown again and we're well overdue for another of our Costa missives!

As we get used to living in these post-pandemic times, things are slowly getting back to normal. For a month now we've been able to walk around nearly everywhere without masks and it was a bit of a strange feeling at first—we still often get pangs of panic when we realise we've gone out without a mask!



It's been strange to see some people that we've never seen without a mask. On Wednesday mornings I go as a voluntary teacher to a local secondary school to help with their B1 English course. I absolutely love it and it's a great open door where you can get to know the kids and teachers alike (it's our favourite school when we do the football outreach with Coaching for Christ). But, of course, masks have been mandatory until just a few weeks ago and, little by little, the kids have been summoning up the "courage" to come to school without a mask.

For some it has taken them a whole month, while others still wear one. I got an idea of what they look like, just based on their eyes and voice but when they "de-mask" I've often got a complete shock. One boy seemed so expressionless and bored all the time, but when he took his mask off I saw he was one of the smiliest boys in the class with a lovely permanently happy expression! And another girl just took her mask off last week—she came across as very opinionated and a little bit scary with her opinions, she looked 18 rather than 15. Then when she took her mask off I couldn't believe it—she looked a good 4 years younger and has such a young sweet face!

I have heard that for some students it has been quite a traumatic experience to reveal what they really look like, fearful of how some of their classmates may react. For others, masks were a good way to cover up their facial blemishes or acne!

This all reminds us what an amazing God we have. As we can see from John 3:21, we all have the invitation to approach Him with all our sins, to come into His light where He can see us "warts and all" (and so we can see ourselves as we really are!) He will receive with open arms anyone who comes into His light for forgiveness of sins, and He then receives us on a daily basis as we "approach with confidence His throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16).

Lots of love from Michael, Julie, Mikayla & Emily

PRAYER POINTERS...

FOR **Natali**, our Ukrainian sister, severely affected by the atrocities committed in her country. Do pray for her, for her son **Antonio** who is serving the Lord there, for her brothers who fled to Germany, along with her 86-year-old Mum who isn't well and badly affected by having to flee the country

FOR **Bernardo**, a man who came to the Lord as a young man but then went astray with drink and a wayward life. He has made contact with us again and is coming regularly to the Sunday meetings. He still has a daily fight with his addictions, but his faith seems very genuine.

FOR **Martin, Mila and family**— As we mentioned inside, Julie made contact with this dear family who had to flee the Ukraine, and we have regular contact with them.

Michael is now helping their 16-year old son Den with his Spanish.

FOR **Reme and Miguel** and their family, especially her Mum who is in a care home, and her sister who, sadly, is dying of cancer.

FOR **Lola, Diego and son Diego**. Lola is a believer and they all came for a while but her husband Diego has lost interest in the 40 minute drive to us and she doesn't drive.

FOR **Loli and her family**. She is a lovely believer who is fighting depression on a daily basis due to the sheer number of problems in her family. She still has the resolve to come to at least 2 meetings every week, praise God!

FOR **Mari** who has returned to church after a long time away and for all her family.

Really Useful Spanish Phrase No.99

Todos tenemos un propósito en la vida; tal vez el tuyo es ver la televisión
Everyone has a purpose in life; perhaps yours is watching television

Michael and Julie Chitty, Calle Aloe Vera 39, 29700 Vélez-Málaga, Málaga, Spain. Tel. (0034) 952 508 271
Mobiles: (0034) 651 653 838 (Michael) / (0034) 657 528 614 (Julie)

E-MAIL: michael_chitty@hotmail.com / juliechitty@hotmail.co.uk

WORKING WITH the Centro Cristiano, and kindly supported by Horley Baptist Church and other kind churches and individuals. If you'd like to contribute to the youth work we can GIFT AID donations received!

The Ukrainian connection

As some of you may well know, we have a dear Ukrainian sister in the church, **Natalí**. She has, unsurprisingly, been deeply affected by the terrible situation in her country. Her son, **Antonio**, wasn't allowed to leave the country, but decided to take up a different kind of "arms" - prayer, the Bible and the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord in his country.

He, along with some other believers, made some extraordinarily risky trips to rescue some Christian girls from the Zaporizhia area and take food and supplies to needy Christians and churches when it wasn't at all safe to do so.

He works for a Christian group called **Young Life**, and they turned all their premises around the country into Christian refugee centres. He is now looking to return to his home town to continue youth meetings, with the Russian forces not too far away.

He even has the option to leave the country due to his father being Chilean, and the authorities offered to give him a Chilean passport and escort him over the border. He could have taken up the offer and been reunited with his fiancée. He chose to put the Lord first and to continue serving his fellow Ukrainians ...

Thanks to the very kind donations from churches and individuals that we know in the UK, the centre has been able to do some wonderful work for the Lord. Please do pray for the whole family and for many Ukrainians to be touched by the testimony of the believers.



Continuing the Ukrainian connection...Julie got in touch with a charitable shop near us which was set up to supply Ukrainian refugees. There was a need for a bike for a young girl and they put Julie in touch with the family. We were able to meet them: Martin (who's Dutch), Mila, and Mila's 3 children. Mikayla was happy to give her bike away to their 10-year-old daughter, and the expression on her face when she received it was a real picture. Michael is now helping their 16-year-old son, Den, with his Spanish once a week, and the Lord has opened up a lovely contact with the family.

Two new men have recently started coming to church on Sunday nights, **Bernardo** and **Sergio**.

Bernardo first believed when he was a young man but went astray and got himself into problems. He's suffering the consequences now but seems to really want to get back into a right relationship with God.

Sergio is a young man whose parents seem to have been (or are) Jehovah Witnesses, but we haven't quite got the full story yet. He knew our colleague Jim when he was younger. He seemed quite shy but he's coming out of his shell and has asked to be put on our church's Whatsapp group which shows he wants to be a part of us. Even though he's in his 30s his parents seem to want him in at 8pm every evening, which may make things difficult for him to come when we change to our summer hours.

Please do pray that Sergio has a real encounter with the Lord and Bernardo is totally restored.

Even though this year it has been impossible to organise the normal football outreach, due to simply not knowing how things would develop with the pandemic restrictions, I still hope to organise a tournament myself over the summer. PLEASE DO PRAY FOR THAT!

We also hope to work with *Evangelismo en Acción* and *Vida en Familia*, who organise evangelistic events and camps throughout the year. Due to the pandemic, they haven't been able to organise the summer camps for the last 2 years, but we've just heard that there *will* be a camp this year from July 18th to August 1st, with the aim of going to evangelize in the different towns in our area.

We're hoping that the girls will be able to go, and that Julie and I will be able to be involved too, as they need a lot of help in many different areas. I'm not sure I'll be able to help too much with the choreography 😊 (having two very untalented left feet) but I'm quite good at washing the dishes!

