



The Good Samaritan



This year, the rainy spring has brought us a great many flowers around the Center that have bloomed with majestic force, together with the beautiful green of the fields, and the birds making their nests. It seems that life is springing forth on all sides—even our sheep are starting to give birth! So many signs of life and vital energy that come from the deepest part of the cellular DNA of God’s creation: plants, animals, trees and human beings too! It is in this natural environment, healthy and in full contact with pristine nature, where we carry out our life-renewing work, helping and tending to the “neighbors” God has brought to us.

Visit from our Dutch brothers and sisters:

This year, as has become a tradition since 13 years ago, our brethren from Holland, faithful to “keep their appointment,” have again come to help harvest the olives. We want to thank all of them, who in a discreet but faithful way come each year to help us; we have already forged a friendship, relationships that transcend this present moment. Thanks, brothers and friends, for coming! In this land of Spain you will always have your house and your friends. Thanks for your affection, commitment, and solidarity with those most disadvantaged.



AYUDA = Asociación El Buen Samaritano y La Caixa Pozoblanco
El Buen Samaritano y La Caixa firman un proyecto de colaboración en Pozoblanco

Colaboración with the *la Caixa* bank.

We thank the leadership of the *La Caixa* Bank and its director, Rafael, for its kindness to us and for standing with us as an entity. Recently we were able to develop social programs of the Good Samaritan and the Dorcas Project of the Evangelical Church of Pozoblanco, due to the bank’s help. We have recently submitted further proposals for help with other projects, and are hoping they will meet with funding approval so we can do them.

We turned 21 years old !

With more than 120 in attendance, we celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Good Samaritan Center. We enjoyed a magnificent day of fellowship and friendship, and above all expressing our gratitude to God for his faithfulness and power manifested in the almost 500 people whom we have helped.

Thanks were extended to the respective local governments (Viso and Añora) for the help received in improving the accessibility of the road to the center. We also enjoyed the presence of the Councilor for Social Services of Pozoblanco, Modesto Sánchez.

The residents of the center put on a play for us, and Samuel Arjona delighted us with a song composed just for the occasion, titled, "Lost." Roland, our director, gave a message from the Word of God on the topic of trusting in God. We also had quite a few people present from CAMPF (a center for the handicapped), and we thank its director for facilitating the participants' transportation to our event.

In the course of the day, we held our own little soccer tournament, including trophies. There were testimonies, joys and memories shared by those who had gone through the program, with both tears and laughter (life is like that!). As is already a tradition, thanks to our excellent group of lady volunteers, we enjoyed a wonderful paella as well as salads decorated with excellence and loving care, by Manuel Fernández. The day was possible thanks to a great working team of volunteers from the churches of Peñarroya, Hinojosa and Pozoblanco, who made this magnificent event a reality.

In the afternoon, we had our traditional dessert contest—this year a requirement was that the sweets be made including extra-virgin olive oil, and the winners got a nice big can of our excellent organic extra-virgin Good Samaritan olive oil.



Thinking about that day, after it was all over, I was remembering that when people come to our offices, their faces and situations reflect trouble, sadness and pain... But on the anniversary, we only heard laughter, happiness, joy, and above all, hope. Jesus said, *"I have come that you may have life and life in abundance. Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest."* It is indeed possible to overcome addictions! And as I looked out over the beautiful countryside I thanked God for that day and for all His promises.

Residents.

Please pray for these men. One of them was found by the police, drunk, in the middle of the road playing “bullfighter” with the cars; a car hit him, and he suffered a broken arm. He is a foreigner, alone, with no proper documentation. We are working with the embassy of his country to straighten things out. When the hospital manager who had requested his placement into our program of intervention saw him again after several months, he said, “his face has changed, now he looks like an angel.”

Another, after a weekend of totally-out-of-control drug consumption, had an attack, fell into a coma and when he woke up, half of his body was paralyzed. Now he will spend the rest of his life trapped in a wheelchair. But he is the first to sign up to go to the schools and warn students, based on his own experience, of what can happen. And when he speaks, the students who usually don't pay much attention to our talks get quiet and listen, because it's not the same old lecture, but rather a living testimony of a rough and sad reality.

Another was at home for 10 days without eating or drinking anything except alcohol. He was rushed to an intensive care unit—one of many such cases, which are usually hopeless. The hospital manager called us and said, “You are the ones who can do something for this man, with the quick acceptance into the Center that you are known for.” The call was made in mid-morning, and before noon the man was admitted into the Good Samaritan.

A mother of four children, separated from her husband, living on subsistence wages, whose oldest two sons were drug abusers, came to our office, and looked into our eyes as only a desperate mother can, and asked, “Can you help me? I am alone, separated from my husband, I have no money and don't know what to do, the official government systems haven't been able to do anything.” Today one of her sons is a resident at the Center and one is in the process of being admitted. By faith we are going to admit them, not knowing how we are going to pay their expenses. By the way, the following Sunday, the whole family came to worship at the Evangelical Church of Pozoblanco!

A resident who has been at the center a month said at a meeting, “This is the center I want to be in, I have already hit bottom and have no more tears left to shed.” He was sent here by the Evangelical church of his home town.

These examples are our “daily bread,” where public institutions, police, hospitals and doctors seek us out so that we “21st-century Good Samaritans” might spring into action. This work is done by a whole team of people who work from offices in Castelldefels, Castellon, Ciudad Real and other areas in the province of Córdoba, in the main office in Pozoblanco and in the Rehabilitation Center, to give a ray of hope to these people, “So that people may see their good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.”

Greetings from a person rehabilitated at the Center:

A very warm greeting from José Parejo of La Puebla de Cazalla. 14 years ago I was received into your program for 10 months; you freed me from a chaotic situation, and at the same time sowed in me the foundations to begin a new life worth living. I am happy with the years that have passed since then; many thanks to Francis, Roland, Yolanda and all the others. A big hug! (this is exactly what he wrote on the Good Samaritan Facebook page.)



A Visit from Central America.

Several businessmen from Central America have visited us with the intention of promoting and helping sell the olive oil from the Good Samaritan Center and oil from the cooperative. We have signed an agreement of cooperation and are awaiting our first order for Central America; there are also plans for distribution in the United States. These business people are delighted with the idea of using business to help fund charitable work, and both we and the director of the cooperative are delighted to see the possibilities for the future. They also visited several businesses in the Pedroches Valley that produce ham, with the same idea of promoting and selling it. Please pray for this project, which is so promising and inspiring! If you click on this link you can see us with Juan Diaz, mayor and president of the greater Pedroches community, presenting the project to him and receiving a warm reception, as is his custom, in his office.



https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10206233841468567&id=1341024381

1st soccer local tournament organized by the Good Samaritan

This April, a soccer tournament was organized to which have participated the drug rehab center's residents, as well as other three local teams who have been training every week under supervision of volunteers from our Association. This activity is open to everybody and is part of the drug prevention through sports and healthy activities' program.



When you have to be "midwife" to the sheep !

The story I want to tell you is how a resident in the recuperation phase, married, from Pozoblanco, father of a young daughter, help a sheep to give birth. As you will see in the video, although the event belongs to the "natural realm," it was very significant for the young man. After having done the good work of serving as "midwife" to the sheep, it was easy for our monitor to explain to him that just as he helped the animal give birth well, he himself needed our help to get free from drugs. These daily experiences are really vital, and they help show the residents very valid and useful teachings which they can assimilate perfectly, since they themselves were involved. Here you have the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c25ogcgnbyutnhv/Oveja%20Pariendo.mp4?oref=e&n=42788505>

Thank you for your prayers and support !

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