

2018



# THE GOOD SAMARITAN



*“I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water “ (Is. 41:18) After a spring blessed with abundant rain and very pleasant weather, it started to feel like summer at the end of June, which is rather uncommon.*

The work with the **residents** at the center continues to be our biggest challenge. We wish we could always be sharing encouraging stories of victory. But, in this ministry, we face hard realities, setbacks, terminal illnesses, and extreme family breakdowns. We strongly ask for your prayers for these complex and difficult situations, which are difficult to process both for those directly affected and for our whole team. But on the other hand, there are victories, and we thank God for those who manage to make progress !



## Olive Harvest

We give thanks that once again last winter we have been able to gather our annual olive harvest. We want to recognize the work done by our brothers from Holland who come each year to lend a hand. Their faithful and consistent help has become the “annual olive appointment,” creating a very comforting and affectionate relationship for which we are very grateful.

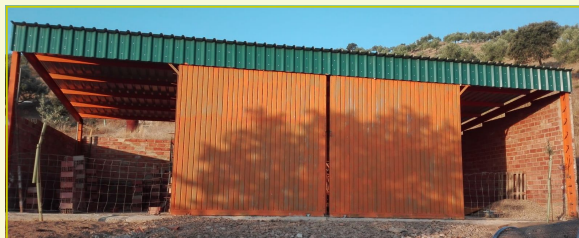


**Change of monitors:** we want to express our thanks for the time that Javier Jiralde served with us as a monitor. Now he leads an anti-drug association called “Breath of Life” in Puente Genil that occupies much of his time, although he continues to be connected to us, sending people to the center. We welcome Antonio Benítez who has joined our team; he once had problems with addiction, but now he enjoys a full life with a wife and children, and is dedicated to the work of serving others, testifying to the power of Christ in his life.



## New facilities built at the rehabilitation center

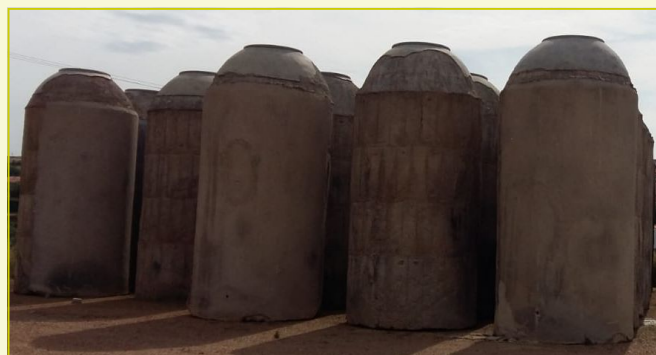
We thank God that we have been able to build a building to store firewood and miscellaneous equipment; since firewood is our only means of heating the center in the winter, we were needing a place to store it.



**Water tanks:** due to the drought in general and some water problems we had last year, we started a project to acquire five water tanks with a capacity of 22,000 liters ( $\pm$  5,800 gallons) each, to increase our reserve capacity of potable water. We want to thank the entities that have already financed part of the project: the Church of Hollywood of GB, which has financed one tank, the Añora Municipal Government (which paid for the site work and a concrete pad) and the Pozoblanco Municipal Government, which has financed



most of one more tank. We still need to finance  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tanks, which have a unit price of 1,700 euros. Let's all pray that new supporters join in to help with this project.



**Swimming pool:** We thank the Municipal Government of Añora for offering us free access each year so that residents and technical staff of the center can spend a day at the excellent facilities of their pool.



**Visit of the Evangelical Church of Hollywood (GB):** this summer an evangelism team from the church was working together with the Evangelical Church of Pozoblanco. They spent a day at the rehabilitation center with the residents, with everyone learning from each other what God was doing in the people's lives. It was a very good time and full of stories and experiences lived out by faith in Christ Jesus.



**Encounter with Felipe:** this week, as I was walking down the street, getting ready for some family time and rest, a voice stopped me—“Francis, do you recognize me?” Surprised and a little confused, I tried to make out who it was, but Nathalie said, “I know that voice, you are Felipe!” Felipe is a man from Pozoblanco who was rehabilitated in 1992. It was a difficult case, but now he lives in Madrid, has a job and his own house, and lives a normal life. Accompanied by his wife, he was pushing a wheelchair, from which his mother, with an old but peaceful face looked at me with tranquil eyes and asked me to give her a kiss. I remembered how many times this mother, weeping, had asked me for help, desperate and tired of her struggle. The years have passed, and the image is totally different: now the son who had caused so many problems in the past was taking her out for a stroll; the years had slowly but surely softened the once-harsh memories of the trouble produced by drug addiction. Felipe greeted our whole family, we said goodbye, and went on our way. This event reminds us that all the work done up till today is worth it! There is hope and transforming power when we live and breathe the Gospel of Christ.

### **Two psychologists arrive from Guatemala: the Abrego family**

Rene and Gloria Abrego, from The Way Bible Center of Guatemala, will soon be joining our team, to work with the Good Samaritan Association and with the church. Both are professional psychologists; Rene specializes in addictions, and Gloria in child and family psychology. They will be an excellent reinforcement for the various activities we carry out. Please pray for them, that the issues of their legal status and finances be resolved.

**How to collaborate :** at the moment we have several people who lack all or part of the resources to pay for their monthly needs at the center. We continue to pray for God’s provision, and to pray that donors for that specific purpose join with us. We are encouraging possible collaborators to use our support systems (adopting olive trees, buying olive oil, or making direct donations at [www.buensam.org](http://www.buensam.org).) Dear reader, let me encourage you, if God moves you to collaborate with us, to pray, consider and make a decision. I have learned in these last few months that what we leave for some future moment, we tend to not do. **Many thanks for those who have already responded !**

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

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