



Felipe and Sarah Yanez

Link Letter no. 49 | December 2022

Contact details:
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Location: Spain



What we do: Bringing hope and sharing Christ with people from all walks of life through work with food banks, Bible studies and informal discipleship.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it."
Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14

Dear all,

And so, we have now moved back to the UK. Another season is behind us and still another is stretching out in front of us. We trust that for all those things we have done in this last season, God will be faithful and will continue his good work there in Malaga. We also trust that he has the future in his hands, however uncertain that currently is.

In our last letter we asked for prayer for this period of transition and before we left, we saw various answers to your prayers:

Our landlord agreed that friends and colleagues of Felipe could take over the rent of the house. They bought the majority of our furniture, and we sold many other things through local WhatsApp groups, to friends and other local people in mission. 15 years of possessions were then reduced to three cubic metres, packed up and sent to the UK with a local removal firm.

Our cars found good homes. Felipe's was bought by a family who had recently moved to Malaga to work with a church plant and Sarah's was bought by friends to use with their ministry "AMOR", which supports young refugees coming out of the state refugee accommodation at age 18, and who are left to fend for themselves.

As we treasured our last days and weeks with friends, there were numerous last meals, coffees and ice creams to be had. We also had a lovely send-off by friends and our church family, with a bring-and-share meal, music, surprise PowerPoint and open mic. We felt very loved and appreciated.

Sarah and Aaron travelled back to the UK first, followed by Beula the dog a few days later (surviving a non-stop, two-day trip through Spain and France with an animal transport company). She settled in very quickly, particularly enthralled by the new smells of the Suffolk countryside.

Sam stayed on in Spain to finish the summer holidays with his mates and Felipe also stayed for a while, to see in the start of the new season at the Diez42 foodbank and oversee the closing of our utility and bank accounts. He then travelled with two friends and colleagues to Interlaken in Switzerland, to the "Traction" men's conference (for those working in long-term, cross-cultural ministry). It was a helpful conference, and a good time of connecting with God. From there, he then also travelled back to the UK.



Adios, Malaga!

Support Felipe and Sarah Yanez:
churchmissionsociety.org/yanez

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



In Spain, life continued. Our church, CCA, had its first ever weekend retreat and it was encouraging to see several people attend who had only been on the fringes before. Pray that God will deepen relationships and grow the church's vision to reach out to the local community. Diez42 also continued its activities. The focus on specific support for Ukrainian refugees stopped after the summer, as the government and other charities were providing significant assistance. This focus had rather overwhelmed the foodbank, and they were glad to return to normal, weekly food distributions, building relationships through a variety of weekly activities at the centre.

And now here in the UK, our boys are both at a local college, Sam in his second year studying health and social care and Aaron studying art and design along with an English GCSE. Sam is now in the process of applying to university, hoping to study physiotherapy. Pray for wisdom about which universities to apply to, and that we don't hit any residence or Spanish qualification issues in the process. Aaron seems pleased with the variety of activities and different art medium used on his course, but with English as his second language, he is finding the English GCSE a bit difficult.

And we, too, are now trying to discern what this next season should look like. Prior to 2007, Sarah had worked as an occupational therapist and Felipe as a youth worker, but after 15 years in Spain doing everything from teaching English to hospitality, foodbanks to life coaching, we now return with a broader and less defined skill set. Pray that we will soon get a clear sense of what God wants us each to do.

Please also pray that we will soon find a sense of community and belonging in Ipswich, as well as some good, local friends to actively journey with us in this new season. We have a couple of supporting churches, contacts and family in the area, but have never lived here long enough to develop deep relationships. With all the transitional and cultural changes, it can sometimes be difficult to find the energy to reach out and take the initiative.

And so, with that, we begin to draw our time with Church Mission Society to an end. To those who support us, we would appreciate your continued thoughts and prayers for these final few months. We will be in touch with our link churches soon, to organise final "official" visits, and will then write to you all again before we finish with CMS.

As always, we continue our "Yanez Family Update" Facebook group that you can join to get more regular news, prayer points and photos, or you can stay in touch by email at sfsyanez@yahoo.co.uk.

Blessings to you all and thank you, again, for your prayers and support,
In Christ,

Felipe, Sarah, Sam and Aaron



Photos from top to bottom: Three cubic metres; Beula's transport; Felipe at the conference in Switzerland with friends; Send-off from our church.



Going further with Church Mission Society

CMS people in mission are following Jesus to the edges in 40+ countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. Mission partners like Felipe and Sarah commit to working alongside local people, listening, learning, building relationships and becoming a part of communities. Be part of this unfolding story at churchmissionsociety.org

Please note that opinions expressed in link letters are those of mission partners, not necessarily of Church Mission Society.

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