Feb/March
2021

# Kingdom Mosaics from Spain

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family



this issue

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## Sarah's news:

Sarah is in the last 3 months of her schooling to receive her certification as a trainer - training both horses and riders. The countdown is real! In January, she went to Madrid to train and to take the exams for Olympic Disciplines. She is now finalizing that portion of her certification. She will return to Antequera in June where she already has a job waiting for her!!! We are super excited to see her finish this part of her training and schooling and come back home to work and train here and start her career!!! She will still have a couple of more certifications to finish over the next couple of years to attain the highest ranking, but she does those via distance learning and intensive courses during the year.

Her new project is this lovely filly named Lambada. Just a baby, she is in training to become a competitor for Eventing (3 Olympic disciplines).






## Celebrations and Moving Forward

We want to celebrate with you!!!

Because we are an official non-profit organization in Spain and because we receive a small grant from the city to help with our work, we must turn in specific reports regarding our work and accountability. Well, our final report for 2020 was recently due and the final numbers are in. La Mesa Turquesa had a record-breaking year! Even amidst a pandemic, even amidst being in full lockdown in Spain from March through May with no ability to open our doors, and even with over half of the year having restrictions on our hours and the numbers of people who could be in the center at any one time, WE SERVED 3,417 people!

Y'all - that's a God-thing!!!!

Our team worked hard to stay connected to people in our community and to continue to reach out and serve. We continued to offer language classes and conversation groups. We held online workshops and Facebook Live events. We did everything we knew how to do - and we invented new things - and somehow, we managed to still reach out and serve 3,417 people! That's a miracle.

It's all because of YOU!!!!! Thank you! Thank your for sticking with us. Thank you for praying for Spain when things have been ridiculously difficult. Thank you for continuing to send funds and support and for never backing down. Thank you for being on our team and for serving alongside us as we reach marginalized and vulnerable people and work to make the world a better place. Thank you!!!

Moving forward, we have just received the go-ahead to open up more hours due to Covid numbers decreasing significantly. So, for the first time in many, many months, we will be open again in the afternoons and be able to host our 'open living room' times… a time for people to come and hangout, relax, play board games around the table, share a cup of coffee and conversation, etc.

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We also are working with the UNIR (Universidad Internacional de La Rioja) in Andalucía. In conjunction with the university, we are now hosting student teachers who are working toward their Masters degree in teaching Spanish as a Second Language. We will be hosting two Masters students while they offer Spanish classes virtually. This is a great help to us, a great offer for immigrants in our community, and one way that we can serve both the university and our intended audience at La Mesa Turquesa.






It's always good to revisit your values and your "why", and we did just that this month with our team and our volunteers that serve at La Mesa Turquesa. As a group, we talked through what each statement meant to us and how we see that being lived out at La Mesa. Here's a quick look at what we value (a translation of the poster):

- We value people.
- We value all cultures.
- We value relationship and friendship.
- We value your story.
- We value learning - we want to learn more about our neighbors, their culture, and their customs.
- We value community and our neighbors.

We had a great discussion around these statements, what they mean to us, and how we see them in the work of La Mesa. We unpacked a few words that have various meanings to various people. And we talked about how "different" is not bad or wrong... it's just different. Many times, we have a clash of customs or ideas or ways that things are done, which can lead down one of two roads. 1) We can choose to judge and correct and argue our point, or 2) we can choose to listen and learn and accept that there are differences in cultures and customs. One of these roads will lead to relationships and dignity and building bridges of peace and understanding.

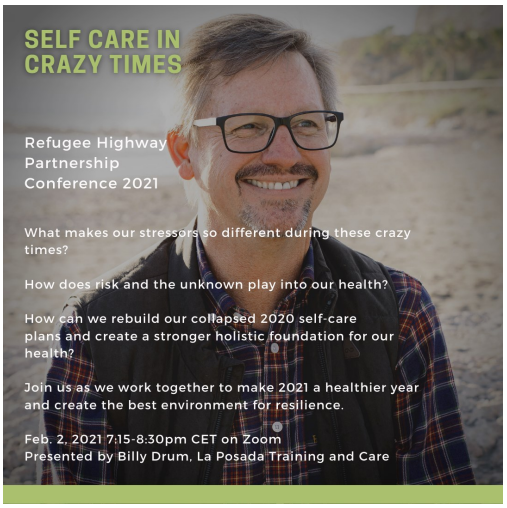
All of the La Mesa Turquesa statements for why we run the center the way we do has it's roots in the statutes of our non-profit and in the distinctives, values, and mission of TMS Global.

I was particularly happy that one of our volunteers raised his hand after about 45 minutes of discussion and said, "I think these values are all great, but I think we need to talk about WHY we value these things. *Why* do we think these things are important?"
This was the perfect segue to the WHY... because all people are created in the image of God. All people are His creation and He cares about all of them. It doesn't matter what color, what race, what country or culture or religion. It doesn't matter why they fled their country of origin. It doesn't matter is they have a job or if they are living on free meals and clothing from the church clothes closet. We don't judge if they are Catholic or Muslim or Russian Orthodox or atheist. They are children of God, created in the image of the Creator. And so, they have immense value - to our God, and to us.

# *Billy's work with La Posada is gaining traction...*

You may recall that for the past few years, we have participated in an international group of global workers called The Refugee Highway Partnership. We are a network of Christ-followers who share a common passion to see the Church minister amongst those who have been forcibly displaced – including the refugees and asylum seekers who arrive in Europe.

As a Christian network, The Refugee Highway Partnership seeks to connect and mobilize leaders, churches and organizations to effectively engage with refugees. The people who work to serve in humanitarian aid or mission efforts with displaced peoples need special training and benefit from special outreach and conferences aimed at equipping them for the specific tasks involved in caring for refugees and asylum seekers, people who have lived through (and are still living in) various forms of trauma and crisis. It is emotionally taxing work.




In January, the Refugee Highway Partnership - Europe leaders reached out to Billy and requested that he lead a seminar on self-care that is specifically aimed at global workers who deal with these situations on a daily basis. The issue is compounded by the fact that workers now find themselves not only dealing with the stresses and strains of refugee work, but also with the ever-present issues of Covid restrictions and constant exposure to a very transient population that is under-protected and has very few resources for health care.

*(*side note* The idea of self-care that Billy is teaching is NOT about bubble baths and spa days and flavored coffees. Those things are all nice, and the word 'self-care' has evolved in some sectors to be defined as that, but that form of care will not lead to resilience and keeping global workers holistically healthy for their work. Billy's teaching touches on a four -fold method of caring for ourselves physically, mentally, relationally, and spiritually.)*

Billy put together a seminar for the RHP and had 46 global workers from all over Europe. It was very well received! In fact, he has received numerous emails and contacts afterwards thanking him and asking for more resources regarding care for global workers and people who work with refugees. One group in Norway even asked if they could use his seminar information and translate it to Norwegian for their organization because they had never heard of the concepts that he taught and they thought it was very important information.




In March, he led a 5-Day virtual workshop on Self-Care for global workers and ministry workers. The course was attended by workers in various countries and organizations and was again very well received.

To learn more about the work that Billy does with La Posada Training and Care, check out the website at laposadaspain.com

## *Please join us in prayer and praises:*




We hired Bayo for several months to keep us Covid clean and disinfected.




We gained another new volunteer to help at La Mesa!




Our Gratitude Campaign collected over 500 handmade cards to give to healthcare workers.

NUEVA VIDA MOSAICO
COMMUNITY • CULTURE • CONNECTION

Pray for our non-profit org.

TMS Global

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TMS GLOBAL

- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live in to their purpose. We believe that everyone has value. Everyone has talents, skills, and unique abilities. We want to see that come alive!
- Nurturing and developing people to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally - because "care" is not just an emotional feeling word, "care" is a verb - an action. That's what we're about - developing and caring for people so they can live into their unique design and God-given purpose.

## Become a Partner! We would love to have you on our team!

***Contact The Drums:***
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Dear Billy and Laurie,

☐ I will pray for you.
☐ As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving $_____Per month / year.
Special note:_____

ECFA MEMBER

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address:_____
City:_____ St ._____Zip_____
Phone:_____ Home Church:_____
Email Address: _____

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