



# Kingdom Mosaics from Spain

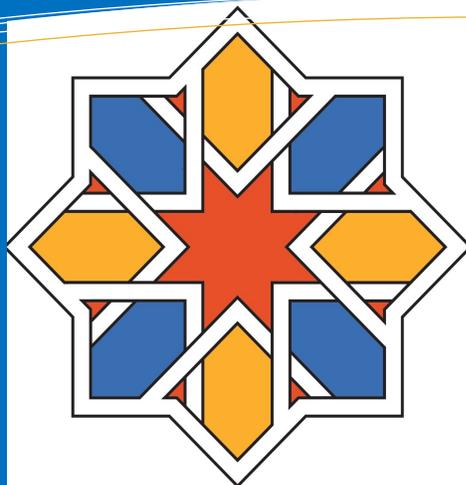
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Please pray for Sarah

## The phone call that you dread

If you have ever loved anyone in your life, you know the lurch in your stomach when you receive the dreaded phone call or text. The call that comes at an odd hour or the text with the wording that evokes panic. For us, it was a text on January 16th.

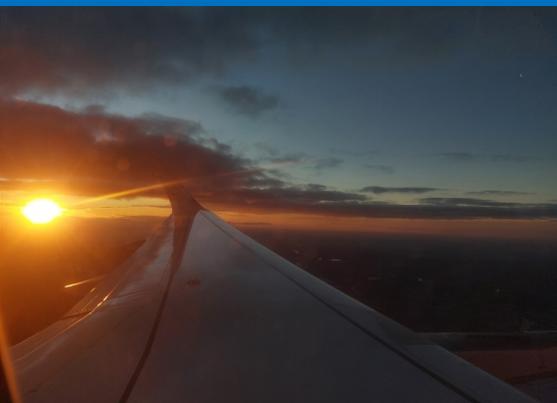
We had just finished lunch after a lovely morning at a mountain cabin. Day One of what was to be a week-long retreat for rest and reflection. Billy decided to lie down and take a nap while I took a book and my journal to a table outside in the sunshine. While we both had turned off all sounds on our phones, I still had mine with me to take photos. As I opened my phone, a silent notification popped up on my text from a number I didn't know. Normally, I would completely ignore an unknown number, but for whatever reason, I looked.

"Laurie - this is Sarah's boss. Please call me. Sarah got kicked by a horse and is in the hospital. It is serious. Please call."

I called immediately and we worked through two languages (German and English). She didn't know much because she was out of town when the accident happened, so she was relaying information to me via people at the stables. She had the most basic of information: *Sarah was kicked. It was serious. Paramedics came and Life Flight was called. The helicopter came to the stables and they took Sarah to a trauma hospital in Neuwied, Germany. The doctors won't speak to anyone who isn't family. Sarah is not awake. She is in ICU.*

She gave me a number for the hospital.

At this point, Billy was back in the room while I called the hospital. An ICU doctor got online with me and again, we worked through two languages to try to find out what was happening. What I can understand is that *she is heavily se-*



The longest flight of our lives

Continued from page 1...

*dated so that she can breathe. She has broken ribs, a punctured lung, and a lacerated liver. She is stable, but in serious condition. She has constant care and we are running tests to watch her breathing, fluid in her lungs, and her liver function. There is a possibility of surgery to repair or remove part of her liver.* He made sure that they have our phone numbers and will call us if her status changes and they need permission for surgery. I assured the doctor that we are on our way, but it will take some time to get from Spain to Germany—at this late time of day, flights are already gone and the next flights will be tomorrow. *“Please, if Sarah wakes up, please let her know that we are on our way. We are coming.”* I’m just sick thinking about her in the hospital, alone and scared.

In that moment, you cannot move fast enough. Everything feels like slow motion. No more flights left for today. We scramble for Plan B, C, D, E... what could possibly get us to Germany faster?! How long to drive ourselves? How long to take a train? What if we fly to Paris and then to Germany? Is there a combination of transportation options? Billy is working his travel and logistics skills while I drive as fast as I can to get us back home. My brain is flipping back and forth between what we need to do, who we need to communicate with, and who will pray. We message our neighbors and ask them to keep the dogs. I message my boss at TMS and let him know what’s going on. We dash off messages to the boys and family. I let my mom know what’s happened. The prayer chain at our Spanish church is activated. The riding club in Antequera begins to send messages and prayers. I quickly realize that I cannot handle (emotionally or physically) the onslaught of texts that start hitting my phone and the million questions. I put my mom in charge of communication because I just can’t do it. In this moment, we decide that we have to be 100% focused on Sarah and we have to delegate everything else.

We didn’t get to Germany and get to see or talk to Sarah until almost 30 hours after Life Flight picked her up. She was still in ICU, and still pretty loopy from the cocktail of pain medications and is hooked to loads of machines, but she is awake and alive!

Never in a million years did we expect that her life-threatening accident would occur while walking. Yes, walking. She was walking a horse to a warm-up ring. Walking. On her feet. Not jumping, not speeding around a competition ring at full gallop, not flying through the air on a 1500 pound show jumper where she wears a helmet and airbag vest. Nope... just walking. The horse got momentarily stupid and spun around and planted a back hoof full-force in her back, sending her to the ground. Two broken ribs, a punctured lung, and a lacerated liver. Lots of pain. Significant trauma, both physical and mental. The ICU doctors continually said how lucky she was. If a kick of that force had been a couple of inches over and had hit her spine, we would be looking at probable spinal injury and paralysis. If it had been a few inches higher, we would be looking at a broken neck or a head injury or death. Over the next days, as Sarah began to process her trauma and what she remembered, she said multiple times, “I thought I was going to die.”

I can’t even tell you all of the saga of the following weeks. So many issues with language, travel, hotel, schedules and not knowing when she would be released or when she could travel, not understanding the German medical system or how to navigate through the details, etc. Over the next weeks, we lived in / moved to three different hotel rooms, we ate far too many restaurant meals and take out, we had to rent two different rental cars, we traveled on trains, planes, cars, and buses to get to Germany and then home again (including 26 hours on buses from Belgium through France to get back to Spain thanks to a transportation strike)... it has been an ordeal in all realms! PS - it snows A LOT in Germany and was an added stressor of us being super cold and wet and trying to walk on and drive on ice and snow! Our credit cards are maxed out, our physical stamina is absolutely spent, and we are an emotional wreck. Adrenaline, trauma, and stress take a major toll on the body!

But Sarah is alive! She is recovering here in Spain. After three days in ICU, almost a week with a lumbar block for pain and breathing, many doctors and nurses and machines and almost two weeks in the hospital, she was released to recover under pretty significant medical monitoring. Every two or three days, she is seen by a different doctor or specialist as they continue to monitor her recovery. Just this morning, she had an ECO on the liver and they said that it looks 100% healed. She has appointments with the pneumologist tomorrow, and a traumatologist on Wednesday. So far, all is healing well. She is in much less pain now. The lead physician gave her ‘return to work’ permission today, so she is cleared to go back when she is able to lift and ride.

On Friday, she will be mounting up again for the first time since the accident (with significant help and support from her trainer in Spain). If all goes well and she feels good in the saddle, she’ll be headed back to Germany in a week or so.

That’s the very abridged version of a very long story. You can see some other details if you check my Facebook or Instagram pages. I tried to post as I was able during those first few days.

Please see the next page for all the gratitude we have from this crisis!!! I can’t begin to list it all or give proper praise and thanks for all that happened, but please take a minute to read through it and give thanks with us!

## So much to be grateful for!

Amidst all that occurred over the last several weeks, we have so much to be grateful for! Please join us in our gratitude and praise and celebrate how beautiful and good is our God!

- Grateful for the ability to text back and forth between countries and across oceans, for communication with family and friends, and for the ability to call doctors and get updates until we could be physically present.



- Thankful that Sarah's phone is NOT locked via fingerprint or facial recognition! The only way they were able to get our text number and contact us was because Sarah was able to verbally explain her pattern lock to a coworker via a hospital phone - which is also amazing considering she was under heavy sedation in a helicopter at the time! It took several tries due to her slurred speech and state of mind, but it worked.

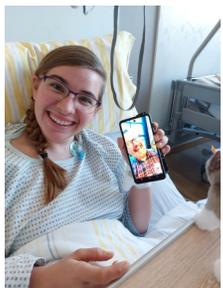


- Grateful for a police officer who happened to be at the stables that day helping out and was able to act quickly and get paramedics on the scene and get a helicopter in the air much faster than normal. She was also able to go in to Sarah's living quarters and quickly find her EU identification, passport, and other documents and send them in the helicopter with the paramedics. Also thankful for her teammate at the barn who stayed with her and talked to her and kept her warm while waiting for paramedics. Sarah was going in to shock and was in significant pain and one of the things she vividly remembers is her friend staying with her and talking to her the whole time.



- Grateful for the literally HUNDREDS of people who were praying in those critical hours, for the net of communication and friendship and love for us and for Sarah that spans the entire globe! So many people said prayers on our behalf and kept our spirits up. Messages from hundreds of people spanning five continents were flooding in.

- Immensely grateful for Karen and Thomas Couch and their immediate response. They prayed with us via video call as we were rushing to board a train to try to get to Germany. Thomas put Karen on the next plane out of Kosovo and sent her to meet us in Germany. Her ministry of presence was such a blessing! Helping us think clearly, process emotions, navigate hospital visits and hotels and food, getting clothes for Sarah, and just being there... a familiar and trusted face and language was an enormous blessing. Also grateful for the immediate response from our TMS friends who sent messages of encouragement and prayers as we were rushing to Germany.



- Thankful for people who knew that there were going to be unknown expenses and sent a little to help us out with meals, etc. To \*N, who sent money to replace the riding jacket and clothes that the paramedics had to cut off of Sarah's body.

- Thankful that this occurred on Monday. The very next day in the mountains of Spain, there was a winter storm and the roads around our remote retreat cabin were closed due to ice and snow. Had this happened on Tuesday, we would not have been able to travel.



- Grateful for the exact placement of the kick (see previous page).

- So thankful to my mom (Patricia Goins) and her willingness and ability to man the communication chain. She kept up with all of the communication between our friends and family and work and saved us SO MUCH emotional stress. I know it was a lot to keep up with! Even with her doing the heavy lifting, we still received hundreds of texts and messages. If we did not respond or missed your message, I apologize. We have been a little overwhelmed!



- Grateful to Kat and Ryan who thought they would be keeping our dogs for "a few days" and ended up having them for 20 days!

- For our church family and the horse community in Spain... they sent up so many prayers and sent so much love to us during all of this!

There is so much more to be grateful for. We are still processing it. We are so humbled by all of the love and all the pieces that had to fit together for us to have the outcome that we did. God is good!

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- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live into 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:

Skype [billy.drum](https://www.skype.com/people/billy.drum)  
USA ph# 979-985-5238  
(rings through to Spain)

Whatsapp: #34 652 144 783

Mail to The Drums:  
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Apdo #46 Correos  
29200 Antequera, Malaga  
España

Or mail to the house at  
Laurie y Billy Drum  
Calle Juan Casco 100  
29200 Antequera, Malaga  
España



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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St . \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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