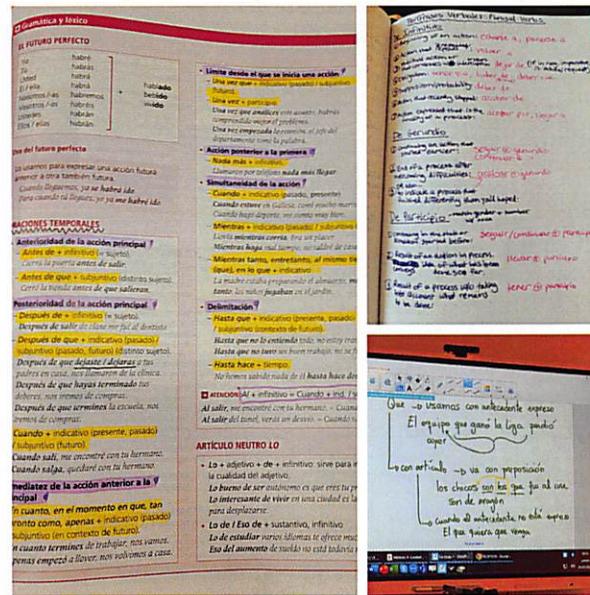


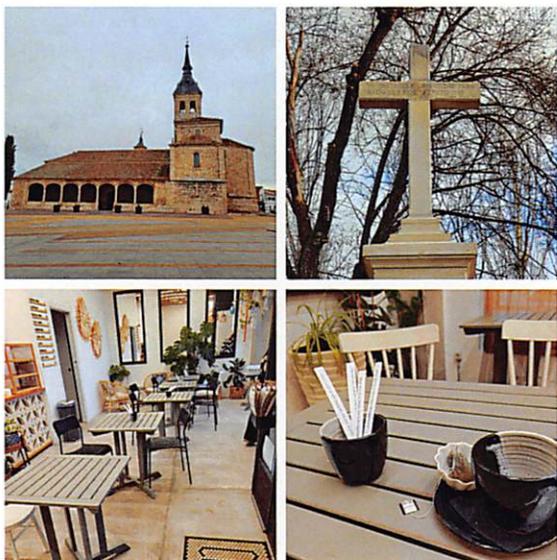
Photo collage of February: Here's a peek into what this past month looked like for me. Thanks for your prayers and support for me as I serve here in Spain!



“Oh, I just love [the book of] Isaiah,” shared a girl in my discipleship group. “I don’t want our study to end. It has been so encouraging and helpful to me this year.” It is wonderful to see these 11th grade girls desire the Word of God to be planted deep in their hearts and minds, and to see them encourage, ask questions, and share advice with one another. It is usually one of the highlights of my week!

In my middle school Bible study at ECA, we wrapped up our “Identity in Christ” study with a crafting party. The girls chose a word or phrase related to the topic and made bracelets and keychains as a keepsake reminder of who they are in Christ. Next, we will be studying through the book of Titus, and I’m coordinating the study with the teacher who had been on maternity leave (who is now back at school) so that we can take turns leading it every other week.

Oraciones temporales, significados de sufijos, perifrasis verbales, voz pasiva, oraciones adjetivas. (Meaning: temporal clauses, significance of suffixes, phrasal verbs, passive voice, adjective clauses.) Do you know those grammatical terms? These are some of the categories we’re working through in my Spanish class. It’s one thing to study the grammar and complete the blanks in sentences, and it’s another thing entirely to correctly use those concepts in speaking and writing. At church, I am working on connecting more with some of the college-aged girls. As well, I’m trying to attend/participate in events that force me to use my Spanish, including attending a mini women’s conference with the church ladies, babysitting kids for a church event, and leading conversations with and teaching games to my language school classmates (photos of lunch and simplified Telestrations game below).



*"If you are spiritual or religious, how do you practice?"* In my conversation class this past week at Brilla Cafe, this question was pulled from the cup at my table every rotation. It was insightful to hear how so many Spaniards DON'T want to label themselves religious, or define their actions with church vocabulary, but many of them said they were spiritual, believe in God, and even some said that Jesus is the Son of God. Being raised Catholic and growing up in a post-Franco Spain, so many of our neighbors here have felt the obligation and the effects of the Catholic church, whether seeming to be a political party, a company that is out for your money, or an outdated system of memorized prayers and steps to follow, and they don't want anything to do with it. People have so often rejected Christianity here because they have rejected the entity of the Catholic church. Thank you for praying for our Spanish friends and neighbors to come to faith in Jesus Christ, for it is quite a tilling-of-the-soil process!



*"Yes, I'm free this Wed. eve. Want to meet up for dinner in Madrid?" "So, it looks like Saturday is best for all of us. We can take the train into the city for lunch and hang out afterward." "I'm having some girls from language school over for lunch at 3 this Friday. You're invited! Come anytime after 2:30."* Building relationships takes work, intentionality, and time. These kinds of WhatsApp messages occur in the midst of praying and writing events in my calendar. I'm so thankful that in the midst of studying Spanish this year, I can also invest in relationships to have more opportunities to share the gospel. As Romans 10:13-14 (NLT) states, "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" Pray with me that I would share the Gospel boldly as relationships deepen with fellow students.



These little bulb plants have popped up and blossomed on my patio recently. As we wait for spring to come, we can see these reminders of growth and God's timing. Just as plants bloom in their season, so God has orchestrated the events in our lives, and we must trust His timing and sovereignty. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NASB) says, "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven."

**Praises:**

- Opportunities to use my Spanish and grow in fluency in the language
- Opportunities to talk with Spaniards about spiritual things (prayer, reading the Bible, purpose of the church, salvation)
- Opportunities for continued discipleship with ECA students

**Prayer Requests:**

- Approval of my visa application for my next residency card. I still don't have word that the paperwork has been approved, and without that notification, I can't continue the process in getting my new card. I will need to have it completed (new card in hand) in order to go on furlough for 6 months, ideally starting this summer. Praying for God's timing in all of that as well.
- Wisdom and boldness in conversations with non-believers, whether Spaniards or language school classmates.

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