

May 2022



THE GOOD SAMARITAN



**Eben-ezer : a stone that reminds us of God's help!
In our case, 27 years of continual ministry!!**

Breaking news

In the midst of blessings and ministry opportunities we are in the process of renewing our vision and programs as we seek to achieve new levels of effectiveness. As of now, this process has led us to make some important decisions.

- **We are continuing all the programs of the Association:** drug abuse prevention, intake interviews to direct people to other drug/alcohol abuse rehabilitation centers, self-help therapies for people in the process of rehabilitation or reinsertion, social help for disadvantaged families, projects of "healthy leisure," help for Masai girls, etc.
- **We are discontinuing the on-site rehabilitation program** and these are the reasons we have taken this decision.

This winter was very quiet at the Rehabilitation Center—we only had two men in the program! For some reason, God has not brought us more people, despite our availability and efforts to be very present on social media platforms. In our General assembly meeting in February, we saw that the rehabilitation program's days were numbered, due to the lack of residents and the lack of subsidies, factors which led to a difficulty in paying the personnel. There were also health issues and financial difficulties for the missionaries who worked in that ministry. That situation remained unchanged, and led to our decision to close the program on April 30th.

After 27 years of continual labor, it was not an easy decision to make, but we saw how the various factors were all leading in that direction...

Now what ?

- We have transferred our one remaining resident to another Christian center, and we dismissed our monitors.
- **We are considering several options to refocus the vision towards another type of charitable social ministry** (for immigrants, victims of human trafficking, refugees, unaccompanied minors, a retreat center for people who need to get away and rest, etc.) We're open to suggestions! And even if someone wants to help us with the process, we will be very grateful.
- Meanwhile, a volunteer gardener is living on the property and is restructuring the garden and greenhouse to produce and sell organic vegetables.
- The sale of the olive oil and possibility of adoption of olive trees continues moving forward, and **we need your support more than ever!**

The work goes on

Encounter with the families residents :



On March 13th, family members of the two last residents spent a day with them at the center. This was a great time for Manuel and Francisco, as well as for their families, after several months of separation.

As part of the rehabilitation program, we do a parallel work with the men's families, because they also need support and preparation for when their family member returns home.

We thank God for Malú, a psychologist, who has treated them these last few months.

Drug abuse prevention talk:



At the request of a friend from Pozoblanco who is a teacher in a town of Cáceres(Torrejoncillo), Francis and Jorge gave an online drug prevention talk to all the students of I.E.S.O. VíaDalmacia on April 6th.The students asked good questions, and Jorge's testimony was very good for making them think.

Social assistance for disadvantaged families:

This program, which consists of giving food, clothing, financial assistance with bills, counseling, and help with official paperwork, reaches out to the areas of Cabra, Manzanares, Alcora and Pozoblanco. We seek to offer a complete outreach, covering several important elements, so that these people and their families can get ahead.

In Pozoblanco, we were able to hire a social worker for several hours a week for six months, thanks to a subsidy. She follows up every family that receives our help, seeing if the family can receive further public assistance, preparing a CV for those seeking work, etc.

Options to collaborate:

www.buensam.org/collaborate.htm



Adopting an olive tree



Buying our olive oil

(only for European Union 's residents)



Volunteering

Spending some days out at the center to help with gardening tasks, care of the olive trees, the greenhouse, small repairs and improvements to the facilities (masonry, carpentry, painting, etc.)

Providing ideas

about possible uses for the facilities, keeping in mind that the center is out in the country (20 minutes' drive from the nearest town.)



Meanwhile, it would be possible to host people who want to have a time of rest, or retreats for small groups of up to 25 people.

Please contact us to see about the possibilities.

Above all, we ask for your prayers for the team and the board of directors; we are still in the phase of grief and pain, but with the conviction that God is moving us to take steps of faith, depending on Him for the future.

We are very grateful to God for His faithfulness during the 27 years that the centre has been helping men prisoners of addictions and we trust that this place will continue to be used for HIS GLORY.

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