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**Subject:** News from the Castros - June 2019  
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**To:**



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**MERCI  
THANK YOU**

**Priez pour - Pray for  
Extremadura**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First of all, we would like to thank you for your prayers, because during the last few weeks, we have seen the Lord work in the lives of several people.

May was definitely an intense month, filled with activity. First, **we participated in a five-day bicycle trip over rural and mountainous roads with high school students of Zafra.** That experience allowed us to deepen our connections with several teachers and thereby helping us reach those with higher levels of education.

There was also **an important Gospel Choir concert in Zafra, as well as the second SETMEX Spiritual Leadership conference with Phillip Webb** (the first took place in 2018). **We also were**

**visited by the Director of Fellowship International** (more about that below).

### **Let me first ask you to pray for one person in Zafra:**

**Felipe.** Years ago, he received the Lord while he was living in a drug rehabilitation centre. His wife, who came to Christ at the same time as he did, hasn't set foot in a church serve for a long time. Nevertheless, after several months of emphasizing our vision for multiplication and starting small groups in all the towns where our people live, it seems that Felipe finally got it. He asked his wife to hold a gathering in their home, and he even invited one of his employees! I have not been able to go to one of their meetings because of all the other things that have been going on this month, but I am praying, and I would ask you to pray for this beginning of fruit in the town of Burguillos del Cerro. I would love to see people meeting around the Bible in this town, which is half-way between us and the Yingers (our Fellowship International colleagues.) **Also, please pray for Olivia, his wife, that the Lord will work in her heart and that this change of attitude will continue.**

### **Dave Marttunen's visit:**

His visit was very important to us in that **it validated our experiences here on the field and allowed us to receive some helpful suggestions. He visited all our groups and many individuals with whom we are working.** The timing was very good, as well, because he was able to be a part of the Spiritual Leadership conference. **We spent a lot of time analyzing and evaluating the progress made, the challenges we face, and future possibilities in each place and with each group.**





Here, visiting the group in La Puebla, in the house of Georgeta, led by Antonio

During their time here, we spent a lot of time talking. At the same time, we enjoyed some delicious Iberian pork!



### **Phillip Webb's second visit:**

Phillip (known as Felipe in Spanish) came for the first time in February 2018, to participate in the conferences that I organize for SETMEX. **The topic was the same, Spiritual Leadership. This year we added conferences and meetings with church leaders in Badajoz as well meetings in several other churches in the region.**

We are pleased with the attendance at each one of these events because we have seen that interest is growing. Some are

because we have seen that interest is growing. **Some pre-believers also attended!**

Recently we had the pleasure of hearing the testimony of Pedro, a SETMEX student. He decided to begin some Discovery Bible studies after attending the first Spiritual Leadership conference. **After hearing his testimony, I was so pleased because I realized that his decision was a direct result of this ministry and of Phillip's visits.** He is not the only one; I will talk about Tonio below

Next year, we are planning to set new and deeper objectives for the conferences and will add individual meetings with pastors, leaders, and students. **Pray for the leaders in Extremadura, for the students, and for the churches, that they will be given a vision and a burden for this region of Spain.**



Phillip leading a conference for the group in Zafra. Also in attendance were the pastor and a small group of the church in Almendralejo (30 kms from Zafra).



Here I am with Pedro, the student I mentioned earlier

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## **Don Grigg's Visit – Gospel Concert:**

This time the choir tried something different. Don led a choral workshop that was open to the people of the town in the afternoon, and

at night, those who had attended could sing the Gospel songs with the choir.

**A hundred people attended the mini-choral workshop and stayed to sing that night. The concert took place in the plaza in front of the castle which was full of people.**

**Problems?** Yes, there certainly were!!

**The most serious obstacle:** Ingrid has wanted to project the lyrics of the songs in Spanish during the performances. This hasn't been possible. Pray that in the future this can happen, and that more of the songs will be sung in Spanish, to better reach the hearts of the audience.

**The most humorous obstacle:** We had to begin the concert later than planned because the route of the Catholic procession of San Isidro passed right behind our stage!

**Pray for Paquito.** I have asked for prayer for him in the past. He is the local director of the Gospel choir. He is a believer and he has a burden that the choir will be an instrument to glorify God. **Pray that the Lord will allow me to be his mentor and that the members of the choir will show spiritual interest and will open their hearts. Pray also that the Enemy will not try to destroy the work that has been done, especially now that we are seeing the first fruits.**





Don Grigg and Paquito (director of the choir) getting ready in the morning



The afternoon rehearsal with the people of the town



The concert at night



## Pray for the local leaders

**Pray for Tonio.** He is a SETMEX student and is in my course on Disciple-making Movements. We have a very good relationship. In the photo above, he is the man on the right. The others are participants in Phillipian Ministry Course (during the last 10 days of the conference).

Philip Webb's conference (also in the photo to the left.) Two of the people are not yet Christians and were invited by Tonio.

**Tonio is a “person of peace” who is very influential in his town. His influence has increased substantially because he has just been elected the mayor of his town!** He talks about the Lord with everyone and he has had several meetings with unbelievers in the last few months. **He is the perfect example of a “person of peace” who brings the Gospel to others in his circle of influence. However, he lives 200 kilometres from us. Nevertheless, I am so excited about him and I praise God for his enthusiasm.**

**Pray for him, and for me, that the Lord will show me how to help and encourage him in spite of the distance.**

### **Urgent request for prayers:**

On May 31, we went to France for a nephew's wedding and took the opportunity to take a few days off with Ingrid's father. A few days after the wedding, his father developed very strange symptoms and had to be hospitalized. **His situation is critical.**

He has an infection in his blood that has affected his heart. In addition, his aortic valve is blocked at 95% and his heart, tired, is very fragile. We ask the Lord:

- That Raoul continues reacting positively to antibiotics so that his infection disappears. It can take several weeks.**
- That his general condition improves and allows him to endure heart surgery.**

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May God bless you all. Thank you for your prayers!

## Ingrid and Ricardo

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