

# SUAREZ UPDATE

|| "...you are my refuge in times of trouble" || Psalm 59 v 16 ||

## Ministry update :

We went to the Neighbours Worldwide Conference in February. Gathering over 40 adults based in 13 different cities in the UK, focused on ministry with foreign nationals.



The international Meeting Point, Helping Hands and Basketball (ministries Avisai is involved with) have all closed for the coming months. We are not sure when they will reopen. Avisai's English studies were also abruptly cancelled.

Judith's Spanish IGCSE exam has been cancelled and she will receive a calculated grade based on the Tutor Marked Assignments submitted through the year and the monthly oral tests with her tutor. She had submitted all the required assignments.

Judith has been in touch with the NMC (Nursing & Midwifery Council). For now they said they don't need her to return to work in the NHS.

## *"What will 2020 hold...?"*

This was the question we wrote on our last newsletter in January. Before Coronavirus 'Covid-19' and worldwide lockdowns! As we wrote, we had no idea what would happen within the next months.

We have now been at home 6 weeks, and life as we knew it will be very different for the coming year, even after the lockdowns lift. The first two weeks of being at home we watched the news almost constantly, not wanting to miss the next update about what was happening. Eliab started to get unsettled which I now think was from the news being on and him sensing that something was not right. We felt very anxious and worried about family, friends and missionary colleagues both at home and abroad.

We then got settled in to 'lockdown life' and began to think about all the jobs we could get done and focused on trying to be as productive as possible during these weeks. So the spare room was painted, books were read, Spanish was studied (then I found out my exam was cancelled). Avisai was in his shed making and repairing furniture using pews he had gathered from Edenderry when they were all stripped out. In the midst of this we heard the news update each day and reeled with the numbers of daily deaths and so many tragic stories being told from around the world. Emotionally it is all so draining. We think too of family, friends and others who are already grieving but now in isolation, for example my uncle Gordon and his family, and other friends. This is such a difficult time for all.

We began to reflect by asking God:

*"Father, in the midst of this chaos, confusion, uncertainty and heartache, what is it that you want to say to us, to me, during this time? Please speak to us."*

We don't want to miss this 'gift of time' that God has allowed us. Time when we can truly focus on listening to Him. For each of us it will be something different, and particular to our situation and lives. It struck me one morning, that I was scared of coming out of lockdown the same as I went in. Although I want this all to end I was scared it would end before I had allowed God to speak to me. Do I, do we, want our relationship with God to be in the same place at the end of this lockdown? The prayer is that God will teach us new things & lead us closer to Him.

***So what can we do now?***

We are trying to be flexible and open to God's leading about the coming year and what opportunities may come up. Avisai will return to IMP when they reopen but we are not sure when that will be. We are trying to get some kind of structure to our week.

- 8 - 10 May Avisai will do a course via Zoom called Al Massira (to learn how to share the good news with those from a Muslim background)
- Avisai has started weekly chats with Wayne in Spanish (our brother-in-law in Spain & doing language study) to help him keep up conversation while he's in lockdown too
- We Zoom in to the weekly WEC UK prayer meeting & with our NW Team leaders monthly.

***Praise God for ...***

- For His care & protection for us all

***Please pray for ...***

- A vaccine for Covid-19 to be created quickly. And for those in developing countries whose situation will be extremely difficult due to Coronavirus.
- For Muslims during the month of Ramadan 23/04 - 23/05. That they will find Jesus as they spend more time praying and fasting.
- That we can somehow be a blessing to the contacts we have from IMP

***With much love,***

***Avisai, Judith & Eliab***

Address: 10 The Glebe, Portadown,  
BT63 5HN

Mobile Avisai: 07516 678 999

Judith: 07719 698 204

***Update on Eliab - turning 2 on 10th May!***

Being at home has meant we can be more focused on Eliab's physio in his next phase - learning to walk. During the past 6 weeks he has been wanting to walk and although his core muscle tone (tummy & hip area) doesn't yet allow him the ability to stand independently or walk, he is trying very hard & is able to stand at, and walk along the furniture. He loves trying to walk holding our hands. He has been climbing the stairs for about 2 months now which has been a major achievement for him. He is due his 2 year review with the Child Development Clinic next month. We don't know if or how this will happen because of the Covid-19 restrictions. He had his physio/OT/Speech reviews via telephone last month & they are very happy with him. He is meeting all his milestones. He babbles all day long in his own wee way! Never a quiet moment. He is saying 'dada' and 'baba' mostly and 'mama' at times. And some other general 'chatting & shouting'. Everything is a version of dada or baba. Although he doesn't yet speak any other words, he can definitely communicate what he wants. Avisai speaks to him in Spanish and I in both languages. He loves a laugh and loves music. He also loves



being outdoors and always wants to go outside to see Daddy working. He sits at the back door shouting "dada".

We recently had a wee 'holiday' in the back garden making the most of a few sunny days. Avisai made him a sand pit the perfect height for him so he can still practice standing while playing outside. Eliab will turn 2 on 10 May. His first birthday was spent in hospital under a general anaesthetic, his second in lockdown! We are hoping his 3rd birthday will be uneventful. Below are photos of him video calling with granny & Granda, standing up, and waiting for Daddy to return from the shopping trip as he used to enjoy going along.

