

EPILOGUE

to “Walking my Mother Home” by Ardis A. Nelson

The story you just read ended in the summer of 2011 with Pedro’s return to our home, but the story between our American and Spanish families was far from over then. In the course of the next two years Rosa and I continued to communicate via email and online translators. We both looked forward to the day when we’d meet in person.

In anticipation of that day, Rosa studied English to facilitate our communications. I continued writing and blogging more about the story. It was our gift to each other and a way to honor our mothers.

As a result of my healing experience with my mother’s passing, I realized I was a contemplative. The defining characteristic of a contemplative is that they connect with God through adoration. So I started to attend mass and a weekly prayer service where I could devote quality time with God.

It was in these times of adoration that He was spiritually preparing me for my trip to Spain. He gave me a glimpse into the Catholic Church, that at first glance may seem like a strange thing—a Protestant attending mass. But I believe it was through those experiences, that He was uniquely preparing me to cross denominational barriers and connect with the people of Spain.

Rosa and I finally met in Madrid in the summer of 2013. Since she played a major role in my healing, this trip was like a pilgrimage for me—with a deep personal and spiritual significance. It was the trip of a lifetime—6-weeks in Spain, immersed in the culture, the food, the language and the faith.

My visits to the Catholic Church in the US gave me a longing to worship in the grand cathedrals and churches of Spain. While there, I prayed for unity between Catholics and Protestants, and for revival in the Church of Spain in each of the 13 churches and cathedrals I visited. I had no preconceived notions how God was going to do that. I just knew that He was calling me to pray into the country for a spiritual renewal.

A few months after my return back to the US, I met Josh Fajardo, a pastor and missionary from Madrid, while he was traveling near my home in Washington State. That meeting led to Josh’s invitation to return to Madrid. This time my trip was a Christian mission to introduce local pastors and lay leaders to Celebrate Recovery, a biblical 12-step ministry founded at Saddleback Church, California.

The mission team included Marvin Klein, a missionary in France. At his invitation, I also shared my testimony at the Celebrate Recovery meeting at his church in Grenoble, France. In preparation for this multi-country mission in the fall of 2014, “Walking My Mother Home” was translated into French and Spanish for availability to a wider audience of readers.

Years before the healing with my mother’s passing, CR was the ministry that transformed me and turned my life around. It was through the guided sanctification process of the biblical 12-steps that I ultimately found Hope and Freedom in Christ, allowing me to embrace healing and recovery as a lifestyle.

Will CR take root in Spain? Only time will tell. God is up to something there. I believe it.

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance of what we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1, NIV)