

Camino Contemplations (A Message from Pastor Dave) W6



I have about 240 kms to go, having done around 550; two thirds down one to go. As Prairie people you know what it is to see, walk or drive along a weather system boundary line. This last week as I left Sahagun before dawn the south side of the sky seemed darker and there was a heavy atmosphere. Suddenly I was treated to an immensely powerful storm, lightning sped across the horizon, thunder bellowed and the air was electric. As the sun rose it was clear that I was walking on the edge of this system, on the side of sunlight (see pic, but it does not do reality justice).

The storm lasted a good while but the whole time I was just outside of it; thankfully! For me this was a vivid picture of how, through faith in Jesus, we can walk in the light and be saved from the power of God's wrath and righteous judgement, (1 Thess. 1: 10, Roms. 1: 18, 1 John 1: 7). Praise God!

The path for me on this occasion was clear and the sunlight strong. This though is not always the case; physically and metaphorically. Today it can sometimes be difficult to discern the path of light; voices and issues can be confusing, leading us away from the Lord's light and path.

Soon after this I was once again walking through vineyards and I was reminded of the Lord's teaching in John 15. If we are grafted into the Lord, like a branch onto the Vine, the Holy Spirit empowers and guides (like sap in the Vine) and we can be fruitful. This close relationship with the Lord helps us to walk in the light. We achieve this joy filled relationship and right walk by remaining in Christ through obedience, love and self-sacrifice (vs. 9-17).

This walk in the light is not meant to be solitary; its all about the Vine; Christ's community, the Church (vs. 17). As I looked at the healthy vines I saw many branches, lots of fruit and hidden away the trellis supporting the vine and enabling it's growth.

Around about now, under Les' leadership, you will be asked to complete a Church survey. This has come about as we develop our three year plan and ministries to help us walk in the light as God's Church. We are working to build the correct trellis to help the Vine at St Aidan's grow and be fruitful, full of joy.

So this survey is not an opportunity to list your likes and dislikes, this you can do any day through staff, Vestry or Corporation; and we do get feedback this way, thank you. No, this is your opportunity to let us know if the three year plan and ministries are helping you to mature as disciples, equipping you to make disciples and helping the Vine grow. This within our context and situation with all the voices and issues that abound.

Yet these times, in God's grace, can also be times of growth and even real joy as we get closer to God. So in truth this survey is about helping us ensure that we walk in the light; remaining in Christ, loving one another, filled with joy and bearing much fruit to God's glory. I really encourage you to give this time and prayerful consideration. Thank you.

Bon Camino

As you read this, God willing, I will be walking what is described as the most challenging part of the Camino; in the mountains around Fronfria. As I wrote the above contemplation I obviously thought of our desire to know our Real God, be a Real Church and live Real lives for the Lord. It seems this desire for being

'real' has hit the Camino too 😊 (see pic). I also made another new friend, unlike the last one (a statue), this one is alive and is called Julie (see pic.....raising money for a children's cancer fund).

