

The Latest Update from Chris & Rose Duryee in Spain on May 21, 2021

The Duryee Family
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Three Year Reflection

Things that take three years: a reflection on this milestone of our time in Spain.



Rosalie Duryee

May 21   

June marks three years in Spain.



Three years ago in front of the Puerta de Alcalá during a trip to Madrid for residency papers.

I googled “what takes three years” and found some interesting stats:

- Asparagus takes three years to grow from seed to stalk, but then it can grow up to 10 inches in a day. Bonus fact: white asparagus, which is very popular in Spain, is not genetically modified but grown in the dark (how does it grow without sunlight?!).
- Jamón Ibérico is cured for 3 years (and this year we learned that the very best jamón comes from Extremadura).

- Many stone fruit trees, including plum, sour cherry, peach, apple, and persimmon, take about three years to bear fruit.
- With the help of AP classes, an economics class at Bellevue college, a few semesters with 18 hour class loads, and one summer term, I graduated with a four-year Bachelor's degree in three years.

The other day I met a friend for breakfast and a walk in downtown Alcalá. I was looking forward to this meeting because this friend and I usually have our kids with us and have not yet moved from "mom friends" to regular friends. I enjoy spending time with her and do not worry about our language differences. She has lived abroad and understands my situation, plus she is just a very nice person. As I was leaving to meet her, I told Chris that I was a little nervous. He expressed surprise and I couldn't explain why very well. I thought of a Spanish friend Chris used to meet weekly for language exchange and I asked, "before you went on your walk with Antonio, did you feel nervous?"

"Oh, every time. Ok, I get it," he said with a chuckle as he handed me my face mask.

So three years is enough time to be capable of friendships in Spanish, but not enough to quell all the nerves around the potential for unfamiliarity.

praises & prayers

- On Tuesday, May 11, I passed my practical driving exam and finally got my Spanish driver's license. I'm getting the hang of our stick shift and enjoying my independence.
- Chris finished his last seminary class, expository preaching, with a sermon in Spanish on the book of Philemon. He worked incredibly hard on the sermon, battled some major nerves, and ultimately received high praise from the professor and his peers.
- We are beginning preparations for our summer English camp and VBS. We still have capacity restrictions in our building, so *please pray for wisdom about who to invite and how to accomplish what we need to without a ministry team visiting.*

- Confinement to our provinces has lifted, after nearly a year without permission to leave Madrid. We are so thankful!



some confetti

:: This [short essay on the Sabbath](#) had me rethinking our time off

:: The Bible Project has a new Bible study and podcast called [Reflections](#) that I have been enjoying on Wednesday mornings

:: Along with the [Happy Hymnody](#) community, our family is learning City Alight's hymn "Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me."

:: Come visit us and we will take you to the Sorolla museum in Madrid. Originally the painter's home, now it boasts an oasis of a garden in the middle of the city, plus his beautiful, light-filled paintings.



some shameless self-promotion

:: I wrote a detailed [account of the day I took my driver's test](#) on our oft-forgotten blog.

:: My essay "[Home, Nutella and Other Thoughts on Familiarity](#)" was featured in a Taking Route newsletter for expats in April.

:: Did you know we have a [Facebook group](#)?

shop & empower



Susanna picked out this [Sky Blue Topaz necklace](#) to send to Chris's mom for Mother's Day. It is made by artisans in India, such as Dulal, pictured here. In India, the pandemic is exacerbating already vulnerable situations. Poverty often leads to exploitation of vulnerable artisans in sweatshops. Every purchase at [my fair trade shop](#) provides these artisans with fair wages, access to healthcare, education for their children, and care for elderly family members.

be inspired

Rather than spend my days scanning the digital horizon for a dopamine hit of false comfort, I want to keep my ear tuned to the groanings of my place. I want to stand

ready, as Christ's ambassador in my neighborhood, wearing grace, flesh, and skinny jeans. I want to belong, just as I am, and I want to get better at loving people

Shannan Martin, *The Ministry of Ordinary Places*