



Cheryl VanZandbergen <cheryl@cityviewcc.net>

Update from the Campbell's ministry

1 message

Campbell E-News <jeff.campbell@novo.org>
Reply-To: Campbell E-News <jeff.campbell@novo.org>
To: cheryl@cityviewcc.net

Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 8:26 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



"How long O Lord?"

There is so much depth and dimension to this question that has been lifted toward heaven from the lips of the faithful for thousands of years.

Engaging Grief and Loss

If you are anything like me (and many of the workers that visit La Morada) you have an untended...perhaps avoided collection of grief and loss stories. We do not have a great track record in the contemporary Christian west of engaging these seasons of pain and disorientation, but they seem common and normative through the pages of scripture and in the history of the church.

That is why one of first outdoor projects has been the Lament Garden. We have

introduced you to the chapel (former pump house) that is the center of the garden, but we have several spaces designed to invite deeper engagement with hard, confusing seasons, believing that they are often starting points to building (rebuilding?) a deeper, more intimate connection with God.

As you descend the steps into the garden space you will come to the Lament Fountain, which we built by stacking pieces of black slate to create a tear drop effect as the water flows over the rough, angular ledges. We invite guests to place white stones on the fountain representing grief and loss. The stones change the water flow pattern in a similar way that seasons of deep challenge change the flow of our lives.

The picture below was taken after a family visited us that had been removed from their country of service for security reasons. They literally had to flee a country that they loved and not communicate about their departure to people that they loved.



When I gave them the instructions of how to engage the fountain the mom sat quietly and said she felt like she needed to dump the entire bucket of stones on the fountain.

As they named their losses and placed their stones they prayed with their mouths, but also with their bodies. I asked them to take some time to wander around La Morada and find a symbol of hope to also add to the fountain. Not everyone was ready for that, but the next day some flowers were added.

The dry river bed reflection space invites guests to name a reality that is often hard to face. Connecting with God in hardship sometimes feels difficult. Naming and normalizing this absence is important to engaging God in what is real rather than some aspirational expression of how we "should" be.

One guest sat in this space defiantly, daring God to show up...to fill her parched season with water. God did not make water flow for her but she was surprised by the beauty and life He revealed to her in the dry space, and she felt joined in her pain.



This is our beautifully gnarled 60+ year old olive tree. Our hope is that this gives guests permission for honest "Gethsemane" kind of prayers.

This is a picture from our recent Adelante debrief retreat. Guests participated in an art project and then were instructed to destroy it and use the pieces to make

something new. It was beautiful to process all the emotion that goes with creating, destroying and recreating.

So often, engaging loss honestly is the starting point for workers who are coming La Morada. Many of them hold significant positions of influence and authority in their contexts and can easily succumb to a false narrative that they need to have it "together" or not struggle.

Please pray for free, honest, and humble hearts as guest engage "how long O Lord?" spaces. May you also, know the freedom to cry out honestly when you find yourself in seasons of loss and lament.

On a personal note...our grand kids are beautiful!

One of the unexpected blessings of God in this season for us, is that Jacob, Laura, and the grands are accessible to us. We never thought that God would call us to the same country. What a life giving joy it is to do the ministry we love and enjoy regular "Oma-Opa" visits to Barcelona.



As always, we are grateful for you and your part in sustaining this ministry to global workers.

Your prayers and giving are used by God to sustain us as we offer emotional, relational and spiritual support to workers who are navigating the challenges of crossing cultures because of their desire to see the kingdom of heaven come to all the earth.

Thank you.



Copyright © 2026 Novo, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you have indicated a desire to keep up with the comings and goings of Jeff and Candy Campbell

Our mailing address is:

Novo
Ave ed Alamillo
Alhaurin de la Torre, Malaga 29130
Spain

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

