

# FARAWAY LIFE

Missionary Newsletter of Rev. Dr. Krista S. Givens



## THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023!

**Oregon/Idaho Annual Conf.:**  
McCabe Chapel UMC

**Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conf.:**  
Waynesville UMC  
Allendale UMC  
Alma UMC

**California Pacific Annual Conf.:**  
First UMC Honolulu  
Westchester UMC  
Claremont UMC  
Garden Grove UMC  
UMC of Vista  
Walnut UMC

**North Central Annual Conf.:**  
Stokes Chapel UMC

**Individuals:**  
Rick Boyle and Jose Cueto  
Bishop Laurie and Gary Haller



## Holiday Greetings!

In this busy season, I wanted to take a moment to send a year-end review and also a "Thank You" for your support throughout 2023. With the end of December, I will complete two years of my three year contract as a GBGM Missionary to Alicante, Spain. It has been meaningful and

learning experience and one I will continue to cherish throughout 2024 and beyond.

2023 has been a formidable year in the life of La Siesta Evangelical Church and in my missionary work for the GBGM. In March I began hosting "Missionary Coffee Breaks" via Zoom and to date, I have hosted 5 gatherings covering such topics as: Living a Missionary Call, Engaging in Mission Work, Mission Life with children and the Life of itineration. We've been fortunate to have guest speakers Revs. Kevin and Carol Seckel, Rev. Courtney Randall and Rev. Sandy Olewine present from their experience as those who've learned to live a missionary life.

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## FOR MY COVENANT CHURCHES:

As a part of my covenant with you, I am offering the following:

- I am available to write prayers for worship or an article for your church newsletter, if you'd like to add me to your schedule.
- I am also willing and able to send a short movie file to use in worship (prayers, updates, mission moments, etc...)
- I am able and willing to send a movie file of a sermon once a year.

For more information, contact me. Thanks!



## DONATE

To donate to my work, please visit the GBGM website at [www.umcmission.org](http://www.umcmission.org) and search for me through my name or ADVANCE # 15184Z

## PARTNER

To become a Covenant Church and partner with me in this mission and to find our more information about the Covenant Relationship program, please visit the GBGM website at [www.umcmission.org/covenantrelationships](http://www.umcmission.org/covenantrelationships).

## CONTACT

Email me at [kgivens@umcmission.org](mailto:kgivens@umcmission.org)

# Introducing La Siesta Evangelical Church!

La Siesta Evangelical Church is an ecumenical English speaking congregation of Baptist, Methodist, United Reform, Church of Scotland, Presbyterian Church in Ireland and many others. Located in the costal town of Torrevecija, our church is a member of the Iglesia Evangélica Española (IEE) in the Levante Presbytery.

We are a community that welcomes ALL people regardless of ethnicity, culture, status, sexual orientation, wealth, etc. We believe that everyone is worthy of value and made in the image of God and it is a gift that we are called to care for all people as God cares for us. We are a community of approximately 80 members, mostly immigrants from the UK, but we also have a reach throughout the world, supporting the mission work of Tracey Williams at an orphanage in Mozambique and Friends of Padhar Schools in rural India.



Our La Siesta community welcomed 11 new members this year from the US, England, Scotland, and Romania! What a joy!

This Fall, I was honored to represent La Siesta Evangelical Church at the Meeting of the Synod in Madrid. Although the gathering was conducted fully in Spanish, with the help of our lay representative and Google Translate, I was able to follow the discussions, vote when called upon and represent the English-Speaking ministries within the Spanish Protestant Church.

Our church has been supporting mission work in other parts of the world as well. We continue to support Tracey Williams, a UK missionary who works at the Zimpeto Orphanage in Maputo, Mozambique. In addition, the church raised over 900 euro to provide drinking water to a school in India. We are sharing the gospel in tangible ways with our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Personally, our life in Spain has been eventful in 2023! I have enjoyed my travel experiences with short trips within Spain to Benidorm and Alicante and longer out-of-country trips to Scotland and India. I painted my home office wall in the manse, to add a little "Krista" into this home. We hosted various friends in our guest room from Scotland and the US and my GBGM supervisor Ullas Tankler from Estonia. Although Po was fairly ill during the summertime months, she is fully recovered and she continues to be a good companion and friend.

May God bless us all as we continue to share the love of God throughout the world.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Krista and Po*



OPEN HOUSE  
AT THE MANSE  
DEC. 2, 2023



# IMAGES

The life of our La Siesta Evangelical Church community.  
Right: The first Sunday of Advent was the time to unveil our new Advent paraments, made by Melanie Little, a friend and member of Claremont United Methodist Church. Below left and below lower left: Our Remembrance Day service held on November 12, 2023. Below right and below lower right: Our Annual Mini-Golf tournament, lunch and raffle. A wonderful time was had by all!

