October 4, 2020 – Pentecost 18 (A)
Meet Our Missionaries: Dawn Baity, Episcopal Volunteers in Mission

An update from Dawn Baity, a member of the Episcopal Volunteers in Mission (EVIM) serving in Madrid:

What does a “normal” day look like for you in your placement?
A “normal” day? I have yet to have one, and I say that with a lot of joy and excitement. My placement is with the national Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church. I work with Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano, and I assist with church communications for the national church and Catedral del Redentor in Madrid, Spain. I also provide administrative support for the project to establish the Anglican Pilgrim’s Welcome Centre in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In addition to weekly services, we have daily and weekly administrative goals, but no two days are the same. The daily agenda is determined by the needs of the church, and we have had days when we visit outside of Madrid. Insights into contemporary culture and history of Spain and the Spanish Church are a regular part of the day.

Why did you choose to serve in EVIM?
The timing of learning about EVIM was a blessing. Up to that time, I had participated in several short-term mission trips and I had served as a community volunteer. I was in training to serve as a spiritual visitor for my congregation (St. James’ Cathedral, Chicago). I was also in preparation to walk in pilgrimage in Spain on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The decision to walk in pilgrimage was born from the realization that God blessed me with an incredible life that I wasn’t living. I was dissatisfied with my work. I was running in place and I lost the ability to express myself fully. My faith and my working life were at odds, and I wanted both to align. When I made the decision to walk, a number of things changed. I gained clarity and purpose, and several paths, including EVIM, things seemed to present themselves. EVIM provided an answer to each of the “what next” questions confronting me. It was affirmation. I used my pilgrimage as part of my discernment for the program. When I completed the Camino and returned to Chicago, pursuing EVIM was a clear choice.

How can we pray for you and the people you work with?
While in prayer, please give thanks and ask that for continued blessings for me, Bishop Lopez, the people of the Spanish Episcopal Church. The Spanish Church has always been a unique voice in Spain and within the Anglican Communion, and it continues to be the answer for many people who are seeking an expression of faith that is inclusive and firmly committed to social justice. Please pray for the individuals who are served by the church’s food and 12-Step ministries and those who come seeking blessing while in pilgrimage.

Do you have a blog we can visit?
My blog, *Aurora Miriam*, is under construction. Launching the blog has been a struggle, and I regret that. It is a missed opportunity to share my ministry with an audience that is both known and unknown to me. The good news is that I am working to have *Aurora Miriam* launch when my second year of service in Spain begins in November. In the meantime, please write to me at auroramiriam111@gmail.com. I would love to begin with a strong list of subscribers, and I would love to keep everyone posted on my progress.

Learn more about Episcopal Volunteers in Mission at iam.ec/EVIM.