

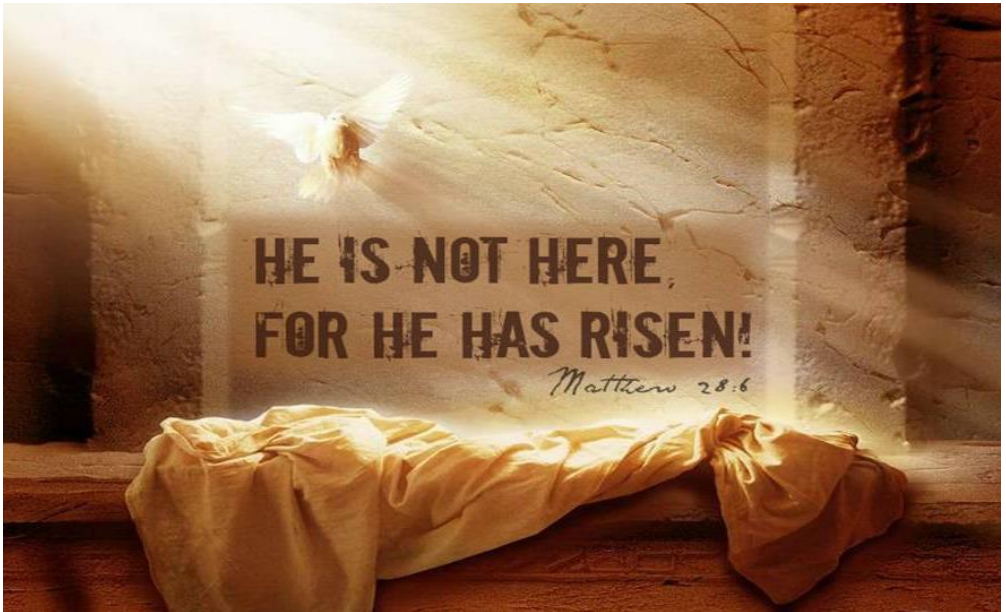


Pray for Spain

April/May 2021



***A work of faith and labour of love
for the glory of Christ until He comes***



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."

(1 Peter 1:3-4)

MANZANARES

Manuel & Toñy



At last the vaccine has come! Now we have some hope! Hope of regaining our pre-Covid way of life; hope of living healthily without threat of being infected by a virus that is often lethal; hope of being able to hug each other and enjoy a coffee or a lovely meal together. Hope! But I ask, "What kind of hope is this?"

In the light of God's Word, this is a short-sighted hope that cannot see beyond what this world has to offer –

products with expiry dates, life projects with "best before" labels. Yes, this hope is terminal, ending with death for every one of us. We human beings are poor and miserable if we rely on a hope that is here today, gone tomorrow.

This is where our ministry makes sense, because we are called to proclaim the news of a hope that is eternal and life-changing. As the apostle Peter said, it is a living hope because it tells us of an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading – for every person who has yielded their life in repentance and faith to Jesus Christ. That is indeed a real hope! Hope with no expiry date – that does not fade like flowers, rust like iron, infect like Covid or end in death. This is the hope that God offers us in Christ Jesus and the good news that we are commissioned to preach. So we must have compassion for this short-sighted world; we must be prepared to talk about this living hope and, above all, we must pray fervently with perseverance to the throne of grace so God will apply His Word in people's hearts.

It is a few months since we shared prayer requests with you, so we will bring you up to date with some of our important issues:

1. Manolo had his hemicolectomy operation in December. Due to Crohn's disease, part of his intestine had to be removed. He has been recovering slowly, gradually feeling better and back at work in his church ministry. He still has outbreaks of diarrhoea as the intestine is no longer able to absorb liquids and nutrients, so he has to have nutritional drinks and B12 injections. He had a further operation on 12 March for a perianal fistula; he has a lot of discomfort. Please pray that the diarrhoea will subside and the fistula will heal up well.
2. Toñy's esophagitis has improved; the treatment she has had helps her to digest food better. The Lord is showing us mercy with our health and we thank Him for that.
3. As mentioned before, we are quite new grandparents. Our granddaughter Eva will soon be 8 months old and we are thrilled to bits every time we see her. Please pray for her and her parents, Rubén and Déborah, that they will know how to teach her about the Lord. As for Emi and Saray, Emi has work but Saray has still not found a job and this makes her very anxious.
4. Toñy's mother (Juana) is 79 and suffers with a bad bladder infection; the doctors took a year to give the right diagnosis and during this time she has been in constant pain. She is now receiving treatment in hospital to heal all the ulcers produced by the infection in the bladder during that time. Please pray that the Lord will ease her pain and heal her.

Here are some ministry matters to share with you:

- We continue to transmit Sunday services through Facebook; this enables us to reach several unbelievers in Manzanares and other places. Pray that the Lord would touch their hearts.
- We hold various Bible studies:

Aurelio: After several months of Bible studies, Aurelio has given his life to the Lord. From what we have seen during that time and in the change worked in his life, we believe he understood the gospel and his confession is sincere, especially as he understands his life cannot be as it was before; he knows he must obey the Lord in



matters that had been normal for him but that God’s Word shows are sinful. That is how we see this, but only God knows people’s hearts. Let us persevere in prayer for his spiritual growth.

Group in England: In the spring of 2020 we started a weekly Bible study through WhatsApp with Rayner and Marta and their family, who were converted in Manzanares six years ago. The group has been growing and there are now 10 participants (five in London, two in Brighton, one in Murcia, two in Norwich). The last two are Alwin and Marta; she is from Membrilla and they hope to celebrate their marriage next September in Membrilla with an evangelistic ceremony, which we shall lead, God-willing. We have been using “New life in Christ” material starting with the first level, talking about salvation and basic gospel doctrines. We are now starting the second level centring on various aspects of the Christian life. The group in general show a lot of interest in learning from God’s Word and we value their spiritual growth. Let’s continue to pray for this ministry, that their desire to know more about the Lord will continue; also, that Marta would be a witness for her family and friends in Membrilla and that the Lord would grant that someone from this town, for which we have prayed for so long, would show interest in the gospel and join the group.

- Two continuing ministries for unbelievers:

English workshop: We hold this every Tuesday evening, starting with a short time of chatting and then learning English. Due to recent circumstances, we do the classes through Zoom.



We currently have 11 students, six of whom are unbelievers from the town: Carmen, Paqui, Mari, Elisa, Diana and Alejandro. Because of Covid we have had the opportunity to

have spiritual conversations with them. Some connect sometimes with services on Facebook Please pray for our daughter Saray who is the teacher and for the believers in the group that the Lord would help us to have the right words and attitudes at all times in order to reach their hearts that need the hope we have in Christ.

Social work: We continue with this ministry, now so important, as the pandemic has resulted in hundreds of thousands in our country being unemployed. The list of needy families has grown and we see pitiful family situations where they are living on almost nothing. Please pray that the Lord would give us a compassionate spirit with these people and not only material resources to help them but also spiritual resources; we know that only the gospel can bring true hope to our life.

- **Pray too for the pastoral work:** We have two very complex cases in the congregation. One is due to spiritual coldness, the other due to serious matrimonial problems. Five children from the two families have stopped attending church and are suffering in really complicated situations at home. Please pray for spiritual restoration and also that the Lord would give us wisdom to know how to help.

These are a few of our prayer needs and we encourage you to join with us in these supplications to the One who alone is able. Thank you for your support as always.

Manuel and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. (Psalm 32:10b)

At present, “trusting” is not a word that fits well in this age of immediate conformity. We don’t like waiting in a cinema queue, at the doctor’s or the bank – this causes negative feelings showing our impatience when faced with unfulfilled desire.

But trust as described in the Bible is different. David writes this psalm in a context of confession and forgiveness. He knows he can confess to God who is also his protection against the evils of this world. David's trust enables him to immerse himself in God's mercy, knowing that the Lord's arms will always protect him. Only by trusting in God can David feel confident and secure.

We also trust in the Lord and feel His hand protecting us despite all that is happening around us; so Lidia and I want to thank you for your prayers on behalf of our ministry in Monescillo. We know you are interested and we ask you to keep interceding with our heavenly father to keep pouring out blessings on this work.

Here are a few prayer points:

- 1. The current situation:** Due to the pandemic, the Mission House has been practically closed for a year. We do not know how long this will last, but we hope that we can soon restart activities. ***Please pray that the work can resume as soon as possible.***
- 2. The financial situation:** This past year our financial situation has suffered severely. Thanks to our savings we were able to pay last year's expenses, but this year we will not be able to pay our way. We deeply regret that the centre is in this situation, but with no activities Monescillo cannot maintain itself financially. We do not know what God's plans are and how we shall recover going forward, but as king David would say: we trust in the Lord. ***Please pray that the Lord will work on this and allow this ministry that we love so much to continue.***
- 3. The future of this ministry:** We have utilised this time with no activities to carry out some small maintenance jobs. It is difficult to do the work without spending money, but we are recycling what we had as much as possible and thus improving the facilities a little. This is all while thinking that, if it is God's will, the centre can soon resume activities. ***Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom in how to carry out our ministry at this time.***



Monescillo Christian Centre

Thank you for your prayers and may the Lord bless your lives.

Yours in Christ,

José and Lidia

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman



"The Lord sat enthroned at the flood, the Lord sits as King forever. The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace." (Psalm 29:10-11)

What can you do when a tiny virus floods the world with chaos? In hindsight I think our reaction was fairly typical. We took stock of the disorder which led to disappointment that our plans were thwarted. This soon became discouragement. Discovering that we were dwelling on the wrong thing brought deliverance because attention was directed to the God who is enthroned over the flood and gives strength and peace to His people.

We soon discovered that others had adopted alternative new ways to get around the problem using technology. We discovered these new possibilities for ourselves, and now we can look back and thank the Lord that we were able to present the work of SGM at a few churches. On 13 January we joined the church at Rainhill for a Zoom meeting. On 17 February we visited Doncaster Evangelical Church and were joined by José Luís and Noemí. On 24 February we had a meeting with East Leake accompanied by José and Lidia. On 19 March we attended an SGM prayer meeting at Barton with Sergio and Chani. We also have the prospect of the following visits/events:

20 April: Langford Evangelical Church, Bristol

22 April: Spanish Gospel Mission UK Council Meeting

29 April: Tuckingmill Baptist Church, Camborne, Cornwall

4 May: North Preston Evangelical Church

Please pray for these meetings, that God would be honoured and folk encouraged.

We did not welcome the intrusion of coronavirus into our programme, nor did we relish the necessity of adopting IT to enable us to promote the work of the Spanish Gospel Mission, but we have to admit that it has opened up some new and exciting opportunities which we hope to explore further. We now recognise that this revolution is nothing new in the history of the church. Our forefathers also had to learn to harness the potential of the new network of Roman roads, the printing press, radio, TV and audio recordings – to name but a few. The gospel is penetrating a changing world and we must change our methods too in order to preserve our message. Please pray for adaptability to take advantage of fresh opportunities.

We thank you for your partnership in the work.

David and Jacky

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