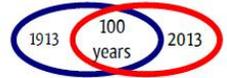




Pray for Spain

August/September 2021



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



*Church of the Assumption, Valdepeñas
(photo by Drawbee, Andrew Bartlett)*

*"I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about,
when I lie down and when I rise up.
And the answers are always coming."*

(George Muller)

MANZANARES

Manuel & Toñy



"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Today we are living in the age of relativism; society has expelled all absolute truth and the only thing that remains is each person's subjective truth. So everything is valid; even an obvious lie becomes a truth that must be tolerated. This is the society we have, a society living with lies that are considered to be truth. This is what happens when we expel God from our lives; all we are left with is our own subjective "truth". We proclaim ourselves to be legislators of our own law, we dictate what is good and bad, and we convince ourselves that the only person we have to account to for our actions is ourself. Existentialism in the purest style!

Nevertheless, however hard humans try to play the legislator, God is still reigning. You may proclaim that God is dead, but affirming this does not prevent God from continuing to be the supreme lawgiver nor his Law from ruling the world. God has left written testimony of his Law, and the only thing left to people is to choose what to do with it. As a church, this is the Law that we preach – an absolute Law that, when it illuminates our life, reveals the great evil dwelling in us and, what is worse, the impossibility of obeying the Law perfectly. But here is the wonder of wonders! God sent his Son into the world to fulfil the Law for us and to suffer in himself the punishment for our disobedience. It is in Christ that God offers us the way of life, and it is Christ whom we preach. He was cursed on that cross so that we may be blessed. Pray for our church in Manzanares that this blessed gospel will be proclaimed with boldness and God will have mercy and give life to the many in our town who are spiritually dead.

Here are a few prayer points:

SUMMER EVANGELISTIC EVENTS

We are in the middle of summer but we could not have a full calendar of evangelistic activities in the street, due to Covid. The government has lifted almost all restrictions, people have relaxed in terms of safety measures, and infections are growing at breakneck speed. For this reason, the government is re-imposing restrictions. Our call to the congregation is that we do not give up continuing to preach the gospel wherever we are.

THE CONGREGATION AND COVID

70% of us have been vaccinated meaning we are allowed to increase capacity for Sunday services. We have also started prayer meetings in person, although we use Zoom as well for some families who cannot attend in person. Our intention is to hold all the meetings in person from September.

At the end of April, a whole family in the congregation was infected with Covid: Rafael, his wife Yolanda and their daughter Jessenia. All three were seriously ill and admitted to intensive care. Yolanda and Jessenia came home, but both have had many issues; they still need oxygen and suffer a lot of muscle aches. After two and a half months in ICU, they finally discharged Rafael. He cannot walk and, furthermore, due to so much time in bed, he has ankle injuries and has lost the toes on his left foot. Please pray that the Lord will work full healing in this family.

SOCIAL WORK



We have received another 4000 kg of food supplies; each time we get more requests from new families who are in need due to unemployment caused by Covid. Pray that the Lord would give us discernment to assess all these families and the physical and mental strength to carry out this ministry in a worthy manner. Above all, please pray for each family hearing the gospel.

BIBLE STUDIES

As you know, we have several Bible study groups:

Aurelio continues to grow in his knowledge of the Lord's Word. Please pray especially for him because he is in a very awkward situation; state aid promised to him as a Spaniard who has returned from Venezuela is two years behind in being granted. Apart from vouchers to buy food, Social Services give him no hope of financial help, even though he is 67 and out of the labour market. Our church has paid two months' rent as he was in arrears, and church members are helping him to pay for water and electricity. But now he is four months behind in paying his rent and is in a very critical position. Please pray that he can receive some financial aid until his pension is sorted out.

Group in England: We continue with weekly classes via Zoom. Please pray particularly for Marta. Alwin and his mother have been in India for three months and cannot return because of Covid. The wedding is set for 18 September here in Membrilla, Spain, but Alwin does not know when they will be able to return to England. Pray that the Lord would give them peace; and if they can have the wedding, that the Lord would give us wisdom to hold a ceremony worthy of him and that we will be able to preach the gospel to all who attend – none of whom are believers.

THEOLOGY (MEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

As normal, these courses closed for July; we had a time of fellowship around a meal. Please pray that studying the Word of God will bring fruit in spiritual growth and training to disciple others.



Young people's group

FAMILY

Juana, Toñy's mother: As mentioned in a previous bulletin, Juana is still quite unwell; her bladder no longer works, she keeps bleeding and has a lot of pain. Due to losing blood, she is anaemic. The doctors say the only solution is to remove the bladder and give her a bag, but at the age of 79 this surgery is very risky. We are waiting for the hospital doctors in Ciudad Real to suggest an effective alternative. Please pray that God would give wisdom to the doctors.

Emi, Saray's husband: On 6 July Emi had an accident at work; he cut his finger on a wood-cutting disc. An artery, a tendon and the bone are affected. They have operated on him twice in a week and he is in a lot of pain. Please pray that his finger will heal and that the firm will keep his job for him when he is better.

Thank you for praying for us.

Manuel and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



"For his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

(Lamentations 3:22-23)

Dear friends, one of the best pieces of news we find in the Bible is that God is faithful! And, best of all, however unfavourable the circumstances, nothing will be able to change God's faithfulness

for his children. No matter how big the problems or difficulties, they can never be greater than God's compassion and mercy. What's more, divine mercies are never used up, they never expire and they have no time limits ... God's mercies are everlasting.

The believer can then trust fully in the faithfulness of a merciful God, who will never stop loving his own and extending his mercy – however serious our circumstances may seem to be.

"They are new every morning", said Jeremiah, full of admiration seeing that God went on loving his people in spite of the fact that they were being fairly judged for their rebellion. God is faithful and nothing and no one can change this eternal truth poured out each morning in the heart of his redeemed children.

As with many of you, we have again experienced God's faithfulness in our lives and in our ministry. My wife Lidia and I both want to thank all the brothers and sisters who are giving and praying for our work in Monescillo. We would like to give you a big hug and we praise God that you are being an example of commitment and faithfulness to the Lord's work over the years.

In a previous prayer bulletin we talked about the various problems we were facing recently due to the health crisis. We still need to keep on praying that the Lord would continue to bless his work here. Here are a few prayer requests:

FOR THE FUTURE OF MONESCILLO

As you know, we have had over a year without events in the Centre and this had a negative effect on our income. We are

concerned that, if the situation goes on much longer, it may have a financial impact that could become irreversible.

FOR THE CRAFT WORKSHOP

God willing, we shall resume this workshop in September. Let's pray that the Lord will free us from possible health problems and help us to undertake this activity.

FOR OUR CONTACTS

With the craft workshop being cancelled for the past year, we have tried to keep in touch with the women who used to attend, but we don't know how they will respond to this new start. We must pray to the Lord, therefore, that they will be keen to attend and that new people can join us.

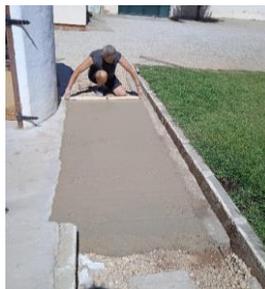
FOR THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In spite of these very difficult times, we thank God that we held some activities, such as fellowship days for some local churches. In September we expect to host a retreat for a church in Madrid. We need to keep praying that the Lord will go on helping and using us to build up his church and to extend God's kingdom.

*Meal with the
Manzanares
Church*



*Restoring
access to
facilities*



For that reason, we give thanks to the friends who have donated so that this ministry can continue. Specifically, we received a generous donation for works and we have already undertaken the project that we had in mind. Even in spite of such difficult times, the Lord continues to work through brothers and sisters who answer the call to support this ministry and the future of God's work here. THANK YOU.

Thank you for your support. May the Lord bless you.

José and Lidia

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman



"Direct my steps by your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me." (Psalm 119:133)

This brief but potent prayer of the psalmist bulges with meaning when uncertain external forces interfere with our progress and make us feel unstable and disorientated, like a wind vane in a magnetic storm not knowing which way to turn. So we praise the Lord for the beacon of His word. It can warn us against the

sins of carelessness, laziness and pride. We also thank the Lord that, in spite of much uncertainty recently, we were still able to do meetings via Zoom to represent the Mission at various churches, the latest being Trinity Baptist Church, Dundee.

Even better, we can now look forward, as restrictions are eased, to attending meetings in person. On 4 August we have accepted an invitation to go to Zion Evangelical Baptist Church in Ripon and from 21 to 28 August we plan to attend, and set up a stand, at the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention, Northern Ireland. We would love to meet up with any SGM friends during that week – please get in contact or just turn up at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor.



On 21 September we plan to visit Trinity Baptist Church, Maryport. Please pray that these visits can go ahead safely and that we can encourage more people to take a prayerful interest in the work God is doing in Spain.

In addition, please remember Malcolm Lane (our Mission Chairman) and his wife Ruth, as Malcolm is in the midst of treatment for cancer in both his stomach and liver.

Finally we thank you for your prayer support without which our activities would be much harder.

David and Jacky

Email: office@spanish-gospel-mission.org.uk