



# Pray for Spain



October/November 2021

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



**“In prayer it is better to have a heart without words,  
than words without a heart ...  
The best prayers often have more groans than words.”**

*(John Bunyan)*

# **MORAL DE CALATRAVA**

José Luís, Noemí, Natanael & Eric



*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22*

Beloved friends,

It is so easy for us to be deceived by our own way of understanding the Christian life; as a result this causes us to justify our own thinking, conduct and the way we live as Christians. Nowadays God's people tend to think that each person can live their Christian life as they see fit, without our being subject to the principles, precepts, commands and authority of Scripture, thus falling into humanistic Christianity that has little to do with the new nature regenerated by the Holy Spirit in a redeemed sinner's life. God's word exhorts us to be doers of the word. The Christian must be God's open book in a fallen and lost world. We believers should personify God's truths so that the world can see our Lord's wonders. When this happens, then we are not only HEARERS of the word but doers also, which is God's purpose when He saved us. Let's not fool ourselves. Let's not live a lukewarm, mundane or humanistic Christianity, without commitment. May our Christianity be authentic, committed, serving, dedicated to spreading the gospel, passionate for the one who died for us on the cross. Let us be the master's disciples, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives through the power of the word of our beloved God. Amen.

## **PRAY FOR MEMBERS' HEALTH**

Dear friends, as usual and as necessary, I ask you to pray for some of the brothers and sisters whose health is delicate. Pray for Jose; she is suffering a lot with lupus and since July has been in pain and also low in mood. Keep her in your prayers. Likewise, Amalia who continues to struggle with depression. Also Ambrosio who is becoming more dependent on Maribel each day, and also for her as she needs strength to care for her husband. We thank God that Alberto is well; they have reviewed his cancer and all seems under control, which is good. He has many hearing

problems and can hear almost nothing; he has an appointment with the specialist. Finally, Paula has been rather poorly for four or five months, feeling worse each day. She couldn't eat and was very weak. She was admitted to hospital and was told she had gall stones. Thank the Lord, she recovered about a month ago and is gaining weight and strength, and attends services again. We are very grateful to God for this. Please keep our dear friends in your prayers.

## **SERVICES**

We are again resuming ministries. We started with the Sunday school where we have two children, David and María. Pray that the Lord would bring couples with children to the church, and pray for these little ones that they will come to know the Saviour.

We have also started some Bible studies and resumed others. Encarna started a Bible study with a new believer, Nataly, a young lady from Moral who was converted in Seville while a student and is now here with us. Please pray for Nataly as she is suffering with many health problems, mainly in her nervous system. She has been diagnosed with stage 3 fibromyalgia. She is only 22 and it is very sad seeing her suffering continually with the pain. However, even with that, she is trusting in the Lord's care and we see she is hungry to know more about the Lord and His word. Pray for her.

Please pray as well for the Bible study with the family from Granátula. We started again on 22 September. They continue to show interest in growing in their faith. Pray that they will also be able to attend Sunday services. John's health has improved, but spiritually he is further away. Once he felt better he stopped taking part in the Bible study. Please pray for him.

Noemí is going to resume the online meeting that she had with the ladies from our congregation and contacts from the town, as well as sisters from Santa Cruz de Mudela and Valdepeñas. She also wants to suggest to Tere, the sister of our deacon Julián, the possibility of starting a Bible study with her. Pray that Tere will want to do that.

## **LOCAL RADIO MINISTRY**

Keep the radio programmes in your prayers. Our sister Encarna presents the program "Encounters" each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

and I present "Horizons" each day at 11:30 a.m. Pray that the Lord would have mercy and open the hearers' hearts.

### **SEFOVAN TRAINING**

We started classes on 18 September, praise the Lord. We are studying "Hamartiology" [the study of sin] and are starting again with nine students. We are content and grateful to the Lord to have these classes here, and to see men and women preparing to be more useful in the churches they belong to or are pastoring. Pray that more believers would feel the call to be trained and to serve the Lord here in La Mancha.



### **MISSION WORKERS' RETREAT**



On 7 and 8 September the Mission workers were able to hold our annual retreat after nearly two years of being unable to meet face to face. We were longing for this day to be able to be together, to hug and

encourage each other and to enjoy fellowship with the Lord's servants. We thank God that he has protected us and sustained us and that, after all we have lived through, we were able to be together again. It was a time of great blessing. We enjoyed devotional time with messages from our brothers Sergio and Manuel; praying together, which we needed so much; the ability to share our burdens and concerns and to see that we all have the same struggles and that the Lord is still in control of everything and taking care of us. How wonderful and comforting – it was indeed a very special time for all of us, and we left renewed and with new ideas and projects for the future. Pray for the workers.

We trust the Lord that we should be able to resume the Mission House ministry and hold retreats, camps and conferences through this and coming years. We hope to resume the Summer Bible Clubs and the evangelistic campaign next year, and to welcome groups from the UK. Please pray about this.

We also ask for prayer for the Mission's financial situation. We thank all the friends and churches who have been supporting us so faithfully, and we pray that the Lord will reward you.

## MY BROTHER'S TESTIMONY (NICOLAS) IN OUR CHURCH IN GALICIA

This summer on holiday in Galicia with our families, we were able to enjoy time with my brother Nicolás and his family in the church we attend in O Grove. Nicolás and his wife Sarah gave their testimony; it was very emotional for us and the congregation.



On 28 August my niece Nicol went through the waters of baptism in her church in Pontevedra. It is a real blessing for her parents that she is following the Lord in obedience. Please pray for them.

On Sunday 15 August I was preaching in the church my family attends; they always welcome me warmly and we enjoy fellowship with them.



## PRAY FOR US AS A FAMILY

We spent August in Galicia with our family. It was a great time after we and Noemí had been separated throughout July as she went a month early to help her parents. Thankfully, her father is better and the cancer is under control, but his dementia advances and we noticed that it is advancing more quickly than we had realised. Please pray for my in-laws Daniel and Manola. We spent time helping them in their house and garden. Noemí and I also took time to rest and spend time together, which we needed.

Please pray that God would straighten out Natanael's life. He is far from the Lord; we are very concerned for him. Keep praying.

For a few days in September, Eric helped with the grape harvest and now he has restarted at secondary school to try to successfully complete the final year of the equivalent to A levels. He has also started with his indoor football passion. This year he has to travel much more and this concerns us since he has less time for studying and for attending church services, although he comes when he can. Please pray for him.

Please keep Noemí in your prayers too as she studies Psychology.

I need prayer also for the Lord to give me wisdom in these complex times. The work is not easy and following the Lord is a real challenge, full of tests and difficulties, but by His grace we remain faithful and we ask you to pray that we remain so.

Dear friends, thank you for your prayers. We need your support before the throne of grace; we cannot do anything without Him. Only to Him be the glory!

Please accept our love and gratitude in Christ.

**José Luís, Noemí, Natanael and Eric**

## **SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA**

**Sergio, Chani & Jennifer**



*"Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act." Psalm 37:5*

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

We are very thankful to the Lord for His faithfulness shown to us each day, although we do not deserve it. We trust in His word which promises us that, though we are faithless, He remains faithful.

We have seen how the Lord has been gracious to our country because, thanks to God, the pandemic situation has improved considerably in Spain, the vaccination programme is proving effective and infections are fewer. There were no new infections in the town in the last three weeks, and the Lord in His mercy has continued to protect the church family.

We have a heavy heart for the situation on La Palma in the Canary Islands (our homeland), where the volcanic eruption is unstoppable. 6000 people have already been evacuated, with the loss of hundreds of homes, schools and farms.

Seeing these events, we cannot help but think of the words in Isaiah 24:1-6. Both the pandemic and the destruction caused by the forces of nature remind us that the Lord's return is approaching; His judgments are coming on this world that has turned its back on Him more and more. May the Lord have mercy and may we as his people stand firm and faithful!

### **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH**

We are now holding meetings as normal, although masks must still be worn inside the building. At the end of September we resumed

Bible studies with a family in Almuradiel, a town about 15 km from Santa Cruz. These had to stop for a while because Cristóbal relapsed in his drug addiction in July and had to go to Jaén for treatment. Pray for them: Cristóbal is better again but he is very weak and his problems drive him to drugs; his wife Rosario suffers a lot, feeling helpless when her husband has a relapse time and again; their children, 13-year-old Diego and 3-year-old Samara are innocent victims in this situation.

With Fernando, we have finished the fourth study in the series "New Life in Christ", and we are starting the next one. Fernando is doing very well and is quite keen to continue learning. His father Eugenio continues to show interest and asks many questions. Please continue to pray for them that the Lord by His Spirit would open their hearts for salvation. Eugenio had cataract surgery on 22 September.

We have started the new session of Sunday school with the church children. There are only a few. Please pray that the children of Cristóbal and Rosario can be added to their number. Let's pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of our children and they will one day come to know Him as Lord and Saviour.

We also hope, God-willing, to resume the children's Bible club soon. Ask the Lord for this and for Chani and Sara, and that He will graciously reach each child's heart for Christ.

Please keep praying for our elderly church members, for health and renewed enthusiasm to carry on attending services.

Please pray for Felipe who has recently moved back into a care home and his daughter Sara that the Lord would touch her heart.

Please pray for Paquita and her husband Antonio who is gradually recovering from cancer; physically, he is doing quite well but his heart is still far from God.

We thank God that Juana is doing better. She spent a week with her daughter and family in Tarragona; it helped a lot to improve her mood and she came back very happy having enjoyed the time there with the family. Continue to pray for her, for her health and that she will find strength and comfort in the Lord.

Please pray for Sofi and Ramón. They are getting on okay but his mobility is gradually getting worse, which means Sofi has a lot to

do and needs strength as she has to attend to all his needs. This also means that she is rarely able to leave the house.

Thanks to the Lord, Germán is still working and he is keen to continue the SEFOVAN training in the Monescillo centre. Please pray for Eva as well, for health and encouragement.

Pray too for Sara, David and their children. We are asking that David would wake up to the reality of his life, feel his need for salvation and confess the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

### **PRAY FOR THE FAMILY**

For us as a couple, we need much wisdom to know how to reach the hearts of the people living in this town. Idolatry plays a significant part and they take refuge in it so that they do not feel the need to seek the true and living God. We need the Lord to guide us to individuals who are seeking Him sincerely and to open doors to preach the gospel to them.

Chani still has her health issues. She is waiting for an MRI scan and to be seen by a gastroenterologist. Pray that she will feel well and have strength and courage for the work.

Jenni has started her second year in high school and is adjusting well, thanks to the Lord. We are grateful to God for the school counsellor this year – she has known Jenni since she was seven and is the person who discovered that Jenni had a language disorder. This is a great advantage as she does not have to start from scratch when working with Jennifer. Also, the teacher-tutor for this year has worked for many years with children who have language problems. We are pleased and give thanks to God.

Please pray also for our older children and our grandchildren that the Lord would keep protecting them and helping them in the midst of the problems they are going through.

Please continue to pray for us in our pastoral work, that the Lord would continue to give us the strength, encouragement, wisdom and vision we need to work in the Lord's church.

Many thanks, brothers and sisters, for your prayers, love and practical help given to us so faithfully; may the Lord reward you.

With love in Christ, in whom we place our hope.

***Sergio, Chani and Jennifer***