



Pray for Spain

April/May 2022



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



Valdepeñas

**"A safe stronghold our God is still,
a trusty shield and weapon."**

(Martin Luther)

MANZANARES

Manuel and Toñy Valero



"The Lord is my light and my salvation -

whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life -

of whom shall I be afraid? ...

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident."

(Psalm 27:1,3)

"I will not watch or listen to the news today!" So I resolve many mornings as I get up; however, I know this is hard to carry out because the news comes on again and again so quickly that it's not long before curiosity gets the better of me and I have to see what has changed. And I read the same as the day before: Covid, 7.6% inflation, unemployment, war in Ukraine and growing threat of world war – even nuclear, who knows?

Faced with this gloomy reality, our heart is heavy due to the uncertainty of what is going to happen; we feel like King David, besieged by a great enemy causing anguish and threatening death. But David was not afraid. Why? Because he knew someone who was stronger than all his enemies: the Lord of Hosts, his God in whom his heart rested. What an example for us! A great enemy threatens us, but we do not forget that Christ Jesus is king above all circumstances and the kingdoms of this world, and "if God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

I haven't heard the news yet today, but when I do and if I feel afraid, I shall think of the God in whom David put his trust and I will tell myself: "My soul, hope in the Lord, from whom comes your salvation."

Once again, we thank you for continuing to wrestle in prayer on behalf of the Lord's work in Manzanares.

PRAY THAT WE, THE CHURCH, WOULD BE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Due to the Covid pandemic, the number of people suffering from depression in Spain has increased considerably; psychology clinics are full and, even worse, people are disillusioned with life – as the increased suicide rates show. In our country 12 people take their own life every day. They live in a social environment of inner bitterness: what is life without hope? Nothing – a life not worth living! So people get by with placebos to relieve their pain: work, money, sex, parties, drugs – noises to make them forget the pain, but none brings calm; when night comes and you are still alone, this sense of emptiness that nothing can fill returns.

It is in the midst of this hopelessness that we, the church, are called to bring hope, or better still, to announce the only HOPE that fills the soul: CHRIST JESUS. Therefore, our prayer to the Lord is that we, the church in Manzanares, would know how to pass on this hope through our way of life and our words. Pray that our life would shine in the darkness enveloping our towns. Pray that God would open the hearts of those who have been hearing the gospel for years through various church ministries, but have still not surrendered to Christ.

PRAY THAT WE, THE CHURCH, WOULD KNOW HOW TO PRAY

We need to learn to pray! The world is calling out for peace, but I ask myself: why do we want peace? To be able again to carry on living our own way, far from God? Of course, we must pray for peace, but above all we need the Lord to teach us to pray that peace would cause our hearts to be broken before Him; that God by His Spirit would change the human heart so that we all return to Him in repentance. Like Jesus' disciples, we also say: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

GOOD SAMARITAN PROJECT

After trying for many months to obtain recognition from the town's Social Services as an Association helping drug addicts and broken homes, we have received nothing – clearly they do not want to collaborate with us.

The Good Samaritan project is involved in preventing drug dependence, helping drug addicts to find information about

rehab centres and above all working with their families. We are making a room in the church premises available to be open to the public at certain times in the week. Please pray for the first event we hope to hold: a workshop for parents on preventing drug dependence, in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Association for the district surrounding the church. Pray for the volunteers working in social work, including Noemí (school support) and Miki and India (care for the elderly).

MEMBRILLA PROJECT

As a church, we are spending time praying that the Lord would show us if it is His will to open a work in Membrilla, a town of 5,900 inhabitants, close to Manzanares. Catholicism is very ingrained there and the people venerate the *Virgen del Espino*, for whom they have built a huge sanctuary where people come to make their petitions to the virgin and render tribute to her, even financially.



The Virgen del Espino Sanctuary

We have been praying for this town for years and feel that the Lord is calling us to open a church there, but we want to clearly hear the Lord's voice as to whether this is His will. This project would need many resources and much effort on our part, so please pray that the Lord would guide us in what we should do.

Please pray also for our first evangelical wedding ceremony to be held in Membrilla on Saturday 7 May. Alwin and Marta (*see photo*) will be married and hardly any of the invitees are believers. Pray that this wedding will be an opportunity for preaching the gospel and testifying about our faith to the many people who will be there expecting "to see who these evangelical people are".



TOÑY'S PARENTS

Finally, we earnestly ask you to pray for Vicente and Juana, Toñy's parents. Vicente has early-stage dementia; in addition to that, his very high prostate levels are causing problems with urinating; he is having tests for both of these conditions in order to have a more precise diagnosis. Juana continues to have constant pain in her bladder and the doctors seem unable to give adequate treatment. She recently had another test and we are awaiting the results; she is very downhearted and eats very little. We need to keep a close eye on both of them. Please pray for their health and ask the Lord to guide us so we know how to care for our parents.

Once again, thank you very much for supporting us in prayer. May God bless you according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Manolo and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."
(ROMANS 1:16)

Dear brothers and sisters,

It's a pleasure to be able to share with you all that the Lord is doing in our ministry in the Monescillo Centre and how we are seeing His powerful hand holding us day by day. We really feel loved due to your spiritual support and we pray that the Lord will greatly bless your lives.

One reason we are keen to keep working for the Lord each day is so that we can be instruments helping to build His church and be those who bring his Word to people who do not yet know Him. Paul knew all about this and in the verse above he gives us at least one very important reason: *that the gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes*. Looking back, we see that this is true. Millions of people have been saved by the divine power revealed through His holy Word to those

who were once dead in their transgressions and sins. Past history is not the only testimony to this fact – God’s power extends across the ages revealing infinite mercy leading to a glorious future.

That’s why we pray that God would open hearts not yet yielded to Him and that He would use us to be useful instruments in His hands. We may be weak instruments, but we are privileged to see with our own eyes the power of God working in our life and in the lives of those who are coming closer to Christ. So we ask that you keep on praying with us and giving thanks to God for all He is and all He is doing for His people.

THANK GOD FOR HIS DAILY PROVISION

Let us give thanks to God for sustaining His work in the Centre and because He has not forgotten us in these difficult times. Thank you, Lord, You have been faithful.

KEEP PRAYING FOR SEFOVAN

It is an honour for us to be able to hold the teaching seminars in Monescillo and to participate in training men and women who thirst for God and His Word. Please pray that the students would grow spiritually and be a blessing wherever they are.

PRAY FOR THE CRAFT WORKSHOP

As always, we continue to request prayer for the ladies who attend this workshop. Right now, we ask prayer for María José; she has been through really difficult trials in her life and has spiritual concerns. Pray that the Lord would use us to guide her steps towards Him and to bring peace to her soul.

ACTIVITIES

We have some activities planned for the next few months. Our next event will be a women’s retreat focusing on inner health. Anxiety, guilt, suffering or other problems can affect our hearts and draw us away from the joy of the Lord and the sanctifying work that the Holy Spirit wants to accomplish in our lives. Let’s pray that, during this retreat, the Lord would break the chains of those women who feel trapped by negative thoughts.

SPONSOR A MATTRESS

The Centre's mattresses are deteriorating so we are looking into launching a project that would allow us to upgrade the beds in the dormitories. Although we have spent money on this in recent years, there are still more than 40 beds needing a mattress and pillow (with covers). We thank God for donations received and we have bought seven mattresses. We pray that the Lord would touch hearts to give for this project and that we can provide a worthy service.



WORKS



We thank God that some tasks are completed. The two paths leading into the Centre are finished.

Please pray that the Lord would help us to continue improving the Centre.

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

José and Lidia

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman



*"Rejoice in the Lord always.
Again, I will say rejoice." (Phil 4:4)*

This verse may cause our British reservations to rise up in caution, but many nations such as Spain do not react with the same inhibitions. Spaniards set great store on their recreational and religious pastimes and even now

many will be preparing for their Easter processions by practising with their trumpets and drums to make sure they perform well as they march with their elaborate floats carrying a statue of the virgin Mary or an image of Jesus on the cross.

After Easter the Feria is held in the city of Seville, "Feria de Sevilla". People ride into town dressed in traditional costumes. The festival is celebrated with bull fights, flamenco, music and dancing. These events are very important for many and it's not always easy to distinguish between the festival and the faith it belongs to. Yet we won't be confused as long as we bear in mind that Paul wrote "rejoice in the Lord". Our prayers are simply that many more people in Spain and throughout the globe will be enabled to rejoice in the Lord. Therefore, we thank you for joining us in this task.



We thank Stanton Lees Chapel for hosting our SGM presentation on 23 March and by the time this prayer update reaches you we should have visited Trinity Church, Rainhill, for the same reason.

Please pray for wisdom for the Mission's Council which will meet via Zoom on 21 April. We ask you to continue to pray for the Council's Chairman, Malcolm Lane, who hopes to take part in a cancer drug trial at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, starting in early April.

Other deputation visits include Wensleydale Evangelical Church on 11 May and local meetings in the Hull area. We're also planning to attend the Bangor Worldwide Mission Convention again this August.

Please note there is a regular SGM prayer meeting hosted by Dave Stevens. This is held on Zoom, normally on the third Friday of each month, but in April it will take place on Friday 22 April.

If you would like to attend, please contact Dave Stevens by email: daveatsgm@googlemail.com and he will pass on the ID details.

Thank you for your faithful prayer support.

David and Jacky

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