



Pray for Spain

December 2021 /
January 2022



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



Sunset in Manzanares

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government shall be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.”**

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

MANZANARES

Manuel and Toñy Valero



"Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

(Ephesians 5:15,16)

Concerning the unwise, God's Word clearly states: *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'."* (Psalm 14:1)

Concerning wisdom, it states: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."* (Proverbs 1:7)

Therefore, we conclude (as stated in God's Word) that wise people live according to God's will while the unwise live according to their own human criteria. Judging by what we observe in society, it is clear that there are many who are unwise and few who are wise. However, God constantly calls us to stop trusting in our own wisdom and to start trusting in Him. God wants to free this world from foolishness; He wants to do so through the proclamation of the gospel – for which the church has been given the commission. And here we are proclaiming the gospel to people, most of whom live with internal bitterness and no hope, stubbornly sticking to their ideas and futile rituals; they do not satisfy them but they are not able to escape their control.

Only the gospel applied by the power of the Holy Spirit can free them, and our task is to keep on preaching with compassion, but also calling upon the throne of grace so that the merciful God would break into their lives and by the redeeming power of the blood of the Lamb they would be set free.

Here are a few prayer points:

THE CONGREGATION AND COVID

The number of cases in Manzanares is much lower now; as of 12 November there was only one person admitted to the hospital with COVID. Nearly 90% have been vaccinated and this is helping to prevent the spread or to reduce symptoms. This has

made it possible for nearly all the church activities to take place face to face with 100% capacity.

Rafael and Yolanda are still greatly affected six months after contracting COVID. Yolanda has many muscular pains, especially in the legs. At last Rafael is able to get out of bed and walk with the help of a frame; he has a deep wound in the heel and toes of his right foot due to being in bed all the time; they have catheterised him and blood has flowed again. Pray for total recovery for our brother and sister.



PASTORAL

Fernando and Juliana have a new son, born on 4 November; he is called Isaac. We ask that you pray for them because, although we urge them about needing to meet together, they have not started attending church again since the pandemic began. Pray for their spiritual life and that they understand the need to join in again.

Salva and Mia. Salva has not been able to leave the house for nearly two years, for fear of infection due to his immunological illness. Mia attends church occasionally, but she does not see the need to meet together and has grown used to following the services through Facebook. They have a neighbour, Elena, a woman with many family problems and a great lack of affection. They invited her to services and in November she attended for the first time; she said she was impacted by what she saw and heard. Pray that Salva and Mia understand the need to meet together again in church and to be an example and encouragement for Elena. Pray also that Elena will keep attending church and will understand the gospel.

P and I are going through another marriage crisis. For a while they stopped attending church, but have returned. P is joining in well with the men's Bible study group. I has counselling with Noemí every Tuesday. Pray that the breakdown in this

relationship will be healed; the Lord knows all that is happening in their marriage.

Amparo has moved to Madrid for a while to care for his daughter **María** who underwent a brain tumour operation two years ago and it has now become worse; she has lost sight in one eye and has hallucinations. She has been admitted for tests to see why she is having these symptoms. Pray for María's health and for the big opportunity Amparo has to talk to her about the Lord. Pray also for strength for Amparo.

SOCIAL WORK

Food distribution. We have received another 8000 kg of food supplies to distribute. Although it is a task that requires great effort and we are often tempted to stop, up to now the Lord continues to give us the strength and resources to carry out this work. Pray for all the people we are preaching the gospel through this ministry. Pray for the special delivery at Christmas where we will benefit from the opportunity to invite people to the Christmas service.

Voluntary work with the elderly. The town council have set up a project for volunteers to keep elderly people company during certain times throughout the week. Three sisters from the church (India, Miki and Noemí) have signed up as volunteers. In November they started a short preparatory course and in December they will start the practical work. Pray that the Lord would guide them so they can talk about the gospel with the elderly people they spend time with.

NEW PEOPLE

Andrés and his wife. Andrés is a work colleague of two of our church members; he and his wife have started attending the service on Sundays. His wife is particularly enthusiastic; having taken time to find a church, she told us the first Sunday they attended, "This is what I was looking for". Pray that they will keep attending and that the Lord would touch their hearts so they will turn to Him.

Roberto and his wife. They are from Membrilla, a town three miles from Manzanares. We have prayed for years that the Lord

would cause a couple from this town to show interest; perhaps this is the answer. Pray that they will continue to attend the services and that we can build up a friendship with them to get to know them better. Amidst such a lack of response to the gospel from the vast majority of people, the Lord is encouraging us with people who are seeking Him.

FAMILY

Juana, Toñy's mother, has been on the waiting list for four months for treatment to deal with the ulcers in her bladder. Pray that she will be called in soon, as she is in pain all day and night. Pray also for her husband, Vicente, whose blood pressure has been very high recently and the medication has had very little effect.



Emi and Saray. As you know, Emi had an accident at work in July; he cut part of his index finger on his left hand. His last operation was on 25 October when they removed a nerve from his middle finger to place it in the index finger; they also inserted some flesh. The therapy to recover movement and feeling in the finger is going well. The firm said he cannot return but he must take six months' unemployment and then they will see if he can come back. This is a setback that Emi and Saray were not expecting. Emi is doing computer studies and sending his CV to companies in this sector. Pray for his health and his future work.

Manolo's Crohn's disease. The latest colonoscopy showed new ulcers and inflammation near the ileum. He was put on stronger treatment but Manolo could not tolerate it due to strong side effects, since the treatment attacks the blood platelets. On 11 November he started a new biological treatment with fewer side effects. Pray for a good outcome and that Manolo will be encouraged and strengthened to keep on carrying out the ministry.

Thank you for praying for us.

Manuel and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



"Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other."

(Deuteronomy 4:39)

This Bible verse is possibly one of the most important for God's people.

Israel had seen many miracles during their long journey in the desert and had proved that God was the only living and true God. But one of the major problems for God's people was idolatry and their inclination to "worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell" (*Deut. 4:28*). Well, how could they go after these gods having seen the Red Sea divide or having heard God's voice from within the fire? Did these gods give them victory in battles, provide food in the desert or protect them from their enemies?

So learn today and reflect in your heart... Moses isn't merely advising us, this is a warning against unbelief by God's people of all that He is and has done for us. To doubt God is to put our tailor-made gods above Him, justifying our spiritual lack of faith, obedience and love. Today, more than ever, our faith is being tested, in a world that wants to divert us from the Truth to follow an idol called unbelief. However, "thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession..."

(*2 Cor. 2:14*). In the same way that faith for believing in Him is a gift from God, the power to withstand this world's attacks is only by God's grace working in our favour. There is only one God and this Lord God Almighty is the only God, our God.

Lidia and I wish to thank you for your intercessory prayers and ask that you continue praying on behalf of God's work in this part of Spain. Sometimes difficulties want to make us doubt God's faithfulness in His work, but God is faithful who has protected us and kept us from becoming despondent or unbelieving. Therefore, we hope you will continue praying for this ministry.

Prayer points follow.

THANK GOD FOR HIS DAILY PROVISION

The Lord always surprises us for good. A brother has given us several musical instruments for use by those groups that need them. We are very pleased. Each time we hear the music we will remember that the Lord is very good to us.



We thank God for enabling us to gradually continue renovations. Thanks to gifts received we have completed a first phase and are preparing to complete the work. Many thanks, dear friends.

PRAY FOR THE FINANCIAL SITUATION

These are difficult times, but we can say that God has protected us up to now, and we shall reach the year end without problems. However, next year is an unknown. Once more, thanks for your sensitivity and generosity during this challenging time.

PRAY FOR THE CRAFT WORKSHOP

We have been meeting again. Each Wednesday about 10 women attend; apart from the work we have tea and share the gospel with them. Although we are not seeing evident fruit, they like to listen and we hope that the Lord will touch their hearts very soon.

PRAY ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES

We have been privileged and encouraged to host events recently, including three retreats – for a church from Madrid, for bikers and for couples. Let's pray that the Lord would continue edifying and blessing all who come here.

Bikers' retreat



Couples' retreat



Finally, thank you for all your support. We greatly appreciate your interest and love for this ministry.

Yours in Christ,
José and Lidia

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman

"Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you." (Psalm 33:22)

The steadfast love of the Lord continues to build up our hope and encourages us to go on.

We had the privilege of presenting the work of SGM at Trinity Baptist Church, Maryport, in person on 21 September.



We completed the bi-annual magazine, **Spotlight on Spain**. If you do not receive a copy, we will be happy to add you to the mailing list, please let us know. Also the little booklet about the Mission's history called **Grain in Spain** has been updated and is available.

Our final **deputation meeting** this year will take place 7 December via Zoom with Bromborough Evangelical Church, Wirral.

Your continued prayers are valued for **Malcolm Lane**, SGM Chairman, as the cancer tumours have started to grow again. In early December he will start a new drug treatment with the possibility of taking part in a drug trial based at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He continues to testify of God's care and control.

Donations: Thanks to all who regularly support the work of SGM. Simon Nobbs, our Treasurer, will be away so gifts sent in December or early January will take a little longer to pay into the bank; don't worry if it doesn't appear on your statement straight away.

If anyone would like to send **Christmas cards** to the Mission workers this year, please send to us by 15 December at the latest.

Spanish Experience: Would you like the opportunity of visiting the Mission churches whilst staying at the Mission House? We hope to organise a group from the UK to go to "our" area of Spain to sample the food and culture and meet the Spanish pastors and church members. Provisional date: a week in mid-September. Travel will be organised from Madrid airport to the Mission House in Valdepeñas and the churches. **PLEASE INDICATE YOUR INTEREST BY 1 JANUARY 2022**, by email, letter or phone. *Contact details below.*

We thank you for your prayers in 2021 and pray that the Lord will bless you in 2022.

David and Jacky

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