



# Pray for Spain

October/November 2022



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



*Hospital de Santiago, Úbeda, Andalusia*

**When we attempt to do God's work in our own strength instead of God's strength, we will fail. Only when we acknowledge our weakness and look to the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and strength we need will God bless our efforts.**

**Confess your weakness to Him and trust Him to work through you – today and always.**

*(Billy Graham)*

***For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

*2 Corinthians 12:10*

# **MORAL DE CALATRAVA**

José Luis and Noemí Alfonso



*"They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear." Psalm 112:7-8a*

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is part of human nature to fear. We can experience fears of various kinds: fear of the future, lack of work, sustenance, health, relationships, children, etc.

No doubt we have experienced these types of fear at some point

or are currently experiencing them. We are certainly living through times of great uncertainty worldwide. The war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, the financial crisis, unemployment, a possible nuclear war – FEARS beset us everywhere.

As the verse above tells us, those who fear the Lord will not fear bad news. The ability to be calm when receiving bad news is a great blessing and there is peace for those whose hearts trust in the Lord's promises and in the sovereign God who holds everything under His control and directs all things according to His plan. When children of God rest in their Lord's arms they are safe and protected and do not need to live in fear, but in the peace that comes from on high from the Lord of Glory. Dear friends, let's look up to heaven in times of such anxiety and uncertainty around the world. Our God is seated on His throne and is in control of everything and everyone.

May God bless you always. Amen.

## **PRAY FOR MEMBERS' HEALTH**

Please keep our dear sister Josefina in your prayers; she still suffers greatly from lupus disease affecting her hands and other parts of her body. She has struggled with this illness for many years and Covid-19 has aggravated the condition. She is quite

depressed at the moment and does not want to see anyone. We are very concerned. Please pray for her.

Please pray also for the others, including Paula, Maribel, Amalia, Alberto, Ambrosio, Cati & Matías, Rosa and María Isabel. They all have various health problems and we ask you to pray for them.

### **OUR UKRAINIAN SISTERS**

Tatiana and her five children, together with her sister Mariana, have returned to Ukraine after living in Moral for four months. Tatiana's husband is in the army and has to go to the front line so she wanted to see him before he goes to war. The last I heard is that they and the children are well; her husband stayed at home for a month due to a health problem (inflamed knee), but is now back in the army. Please pray for this family that God would guard them and protect her husband in the war.

Mariana is with her parents, helping them with home tasks and farm work. She is also teaching English online. She is very keen to serve the Lord and told us that her time with us had been a great blessing for her life. While in Ukraine, she was reunited with her previous congregation and she felt that God was guiding her to serve Him somewhere. On 25 September she sent me a WhatsApp message saying that, after much prayer, she felt the Lord wanted her to return to Spain to help us in the work here in Moral, so she will return here on 5 October and will be working with us in the church and will also continue the online English classes with her students. Please pray for her that this decision was in accordance with the Lord's will, that she can work here giving English classes, and also that she can learn Spanish quickly and be able to attend the SEFOVAN Bible training here. Please pray for all this.



### **DISCIPLING**

Encarna continues to disciple Marianny, our sister from Venezuela. We see fruit from this work, as Marianny has asked to be baptised and is firmly believing in the Lord.

Noemí meets with Mari Nieves and Tere. They are both growing well and enjoying the Bible studies, and they both attend Sunday services – Tere less frequently. Mari Nieves attends every Sunday and wants to restore her relationship with the church and become a member in fellowship with us. After 19 years away from the church, the Lord has worked in her heart so she is returning to be part of God’s family in Moral. We thank the Lord for this blessing. Noemí has also started discipling Verónica, a new sister attending church with her family (see below).

### **FAMILIES TO PRAY FOR**



Marianny has asked to be baptised. She has been living in Moral for several months with her husband Roberto (not yet a believer) and her two lovely daughters, Isabela and Victoria. She wants to stay in Moral because she feels blessed here with the church and support from members; also, the girls love the church family. So we ask for prayer that she and her husband may soon find work in the town.

Luis Miguel and Verónica, together with Luis Miguel junior and Daniel, arrived in Moral recently. I have known Luis Miguel for several years; when I used to attend the Herrar de La Mancha prison, he was there due to driving without a licence. A few months ago, he called me to say he would like to live in Moral and be able to attend our church; both he and his wife wanted the children to grow up attending our church. So we got to work to bring them to Moral (amongst much opposition from the enemy of God’s children), and through God’s grace they are now in Moral and the children are attending school. The parents are having pastoral help with integrating into the church and the town. Pray for them.





Ana María is a dear sister aged 86 who has been living in Moral for about eight months. She lives with her son Alexander who comes to church with her.

Pray for work for Alexander and for better health for Ana María.

### **SEFOVAN BIBLE TRAINING BY EXTENSION**

We thank God that this year we have started a new session. The first class was held on 17 September and the Lord surprised us again by bringing five new students. We thank God for each one, 12 in total. God-willing, seven of them will graduate after this year, adding to the 13 who have already graduated. Let us continue to ask the Lord for men and women who want to be trained to serve Him better in His churches and that they may study with us. Two of our students are not able to pay for their classes, so please pray that the Lord would provide for their studies.

### **HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB**

We were able to resume the Holiday Bible Club this year. We didn't expect many children to attend due to various sporting and play activities taking place on the same days; however, by God's grace about 25 children attended each day and were able to hear the gospel message. Please pray for the seed sown in the hearts of these little ones.



## VIDAXTREMA 2022 EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

In July we were able to resume preaching the gospel in the town squares of Torrenueva, Castellar de Santiago, Santa Cruz de Mudela, Membrilla, Manzanares, Valdepeñas and Moral. It was such a blessing to be able to share the gospel through preaching, leaflets and all the activities carried out with the sole aim of presenting the gospel as clearly as possible to children and adults who were there. A team from Exodus in Northern Ireland were able to join us. Thank the Lord for their work. Please keep all these towns in prayer that the seed sown will bring forth fruit.



## HOLIDAY WORK

As usually happens when we go to Galicia to visit our family, I am asked to preach in various places or our home church. This summer I was preaching every Sunday on holiday. I know I shouldn't accept preaching requests on holiday, but I find it difficult to say no and I enjoy being with my brothers and sisters and serving them as I am able.

This year my brother Nicolas (who leads the men's group in his church) invited me to hold a mini-retreat with them. It was a very special time enjoying my brother's company, but also being able to serve the men who joined us. Sunday evening I preached in church and we were welcomed, as normal, with much love. It's a privilege to be able to serve God's people.



## **PRAY FOR THE MISSION WORKERS AND FINANCES**

In September, after many years of not being able to do so, the workers were able to have a restful retreat in Navafria (in Segovia province). Each couple had been saving 20€ for nine months to pay for us to go for a RESTFUL retreat, yes RESTFUL. We went for two days to a quiet place and rested, taking walks, enjoying nature and swimming, with none of the work we do most years; I must say it was a very special time for the four couples.

We were able to laugh a lot, talk, play, walk, share stories and anecdotes – in all, a time to rebuild our strength to carry on and encourage each other, thus strengthening our bonds of fellowship and friendship. Please pray for Sergio and Chani, Manuel and Toñy, Pepe and Lidia, and for us. We need your prayers each day.



Please also pray about the Mission's finances. These are difficult times for all the families supporting us and we are aware of that. We pray for all of you who support us and we trust our God that you will not lack anything, since He is the one who sustains your lives as well as ours. Therefore, I ask that you also pray that we will be sustained so that our daily needs are met and we can concern ourselves with preaching the gospel. Thank you, friends, for your faithfulness.

## PRAY FOR OUR SONS

We thank the Lord for our sons, Natanael and Eric. They are both a blessed gift from the Lord for us.

Natanael has returned to his university course in Jaén and is studying Psychology again. We trust that he will be able to work hard and try to fulfil his dream of becoming a Psychologist.

Eric is also studying away from home, in Ciudad Real.

He is doing a degree: "Higher Technician in Sports Sociology Teaching and Animation". He is very happy with what he is learning.

We ask you to pray for them both. Although I have said that both are God's gift to us, our burden is that they be committed to the Lord, although they are not at present. Please pray for them.

For Noemí and myself, this is a new stage in our lives, alone without the boys at home. We think this will be good for us as we shall have more time to be dedicated to each other (which we needed so much), but we are also freer to dedicate more time to the ministry and to do other things that we could not do with the children.

Please pray for Noemí's studies. This year she will take several subjects to complete year 3 and others for year 4, needing concentration and effort. For me, please pray that the Lord would help and sustain me, and give me wisdom and vision to lead God's flock here in Moral.

Dear friends, thank you for your prayers. We need your help before our dear Lord's Throne of Grace; without Him we are nothing and can do nothing. To Him alone be the glory!

With love and gratitude in Christ.

***José Luis and Noemí***





# **SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA**

Sergio, Chani & Jennifer



*"Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"*  
*Mark 4:38b*

In the midst of the storms and scourges we face in life, we often react like Jesus' disciples when they were with Him in the boat and a great storm arose, making them insecure, frightened and in fear of losing their lives. So they reproached the Lord for not helping them, while he stayed calm sleeping in the boat. *Don't you care if we perish? Why are you doing nothing? Don't we matter to you?*

We can also feel like that when faced with our life's circumstances with the financial crisis, global instability, insecurity, fear of the future, problems, family problems, children ...

Hearing this cry of anguish, the Lord gets up; He is not far away but is there in the boat with His disciples, also in the storm and He says: *Why are you afraid? How come you have no faith?* How easily we forget who the Lord is – the Almighty, the Sovereign who controls all in His hand and invites us to rest in Him.

Let's thank the Lord that He always comes to our aid and invites us to cast all our anxiety on Him, because He cares for us. Amen.

We are very grateful to God for your concern about the work in Spain, here in Santa Cruz de Mudela and for us. We thank the Lord for your support and prayers faithfully presented to the Lord.

## **HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB**

We thank God that we held the Holiday Bible Club at the end of June after not being able to work with the children through the

pandemic. It was a blessing to have 26 children each day who heard the gospel message. We thank the Lord for those who came from the UK to help us in this work.



## EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

We are thankful for the evangelistic campaign that we held in various towns from 12 to 23 July. Keep praying for Santa Cruz, Torrenueva and Castellar that remain plunged in the darkness of idolatry, thinking they are pleasing God; pray that the light of the gospel would shine upon them.



Praise God for each young person helping this year; they are a blessing for the churches in this area. May the Lord also bless those who came with the Exodus group and we praise the Lord for their help in the various activities.

## **SPANISH EXPERIENCE – VISITORS FROM THE UK**

In September we had the privilege of having a group of brothers and sisters visit us in the Santa Cruz church. We shared a time of blessing and fellowship with them all. Thank you for your love.



## **CHURCH MEMBERS**

Pray for our older members. For Juana, that the Lord would help her as her hearing is failing and she can't make the most of what is shared from the Word in church.

Also pray for Paquita, that the Lord would comfort her in her widowhood and with her health problems.

For Ramón and Sofi: due to his poor health he has not been able to meet in church for a long time, but whenever we visit he is glad and rejoices in the Word we share with him.

Please pray for Felipe who remains in the old people's home; in recent months his health has deteriorated and his dementia has worsened – he forgets a lot.

Fernando also needs prayer that he will keep growing in the Lord; and pray that his father will listen and accept the gospel. We visit them each week.

Since the pandemic, Alfonso has been attending each Sunday but not the prayer meetings. Pray for his wife Juani who has lost interest in the gospel and is sticking more to her Catholic tradition.

Pray for Paqui and Virtudes who stopped meeting with us during the pandemic and are not yet keen to come, feeling it is not

necessary. Chani has visited Paqui to encourage her to return to the Lord and meet with the church.

Please pray also for Sara that she would remain faithful and for her husband David that the Spirit would work in him so he would submit to the Lord.

We thank God that Germán and Eva remain faithful to the Lord and their service in the church. Germán continues his studies through the SEFOVAN Bible teaching by extension.

## **FAMILY**

We are thankful to God for Jennifer who was 15 in June and is in her third year of secondary school. Up to now, it is going quite well; thankfully she has good teachers who help her and look after her. She still sees her therapists; both the Occupational Therapist and the Speech Therapist have helped her a lot.

Please pray for our older children. Eli and her husband seem to get further away from the Lord and ourselves, concerned with their work and problems they want to solve in their own way. We are saddened that our granddaughters cannot take part as before in Sunday school and have very little contact with the gospel.

Our son Pablo and his family do remain faithful to the Lord, but they continue to have financial problems due to the current crisis and fluctuation in the work for the company for which he works.

Chani continues to have neck pain and the problems with our daughter Eli affect her mood greatly; please pray for her. To be honest, we are both affected mentally seeing them each time becoming further away and colder towards us, but we know that He is in our boat and taking care of us, although we are going through this tempestuous sea causing us worry and sadness.

As always, please pray for us that the Lord would give us encouragement, vision and wisdom as we serve the church and continue to preach the gospel.

With love in Christ Jesus our Saviour.

***Sergio, Chani and Jennifer***