



# Pray for Spain

## August/September 2023



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



*Giving testimony in Membrilla*

**Prayer links us with God's true purposes, for us and for the world. It not only brings the blessings of God's will to our own personal lives, it brings us the added blessing of being in step with God's plan. Prayer also – in ways we will never fully understand this side of eternity – makes us partners with God in what He is doing in the world.  
God works through our prayers!**

(Billy Graham)

# MANZANARES

## Manuel and Toñy Valero



*To which of the angels did God ever say,  
"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet"?. (Hebrews 1:13)*

In this society where God is no longer relevant, it is not difficult to notice a popular fear caused by a feeling of "absolute chaos": There is no order or cohesion, we are in the hands of a blind destiny leading us to a "we don't know what".

Even those who think God is somewhat relevant are overcome with a "deistic" feeling: God created this world but has abandoned it to its fate.

However, we Christians know that this is not the case, as the Psalms say time and again: *The Lord reigns!* (Psalm 99:1).

In heaven there is a THRONE whose sceptre belongs to Jesus Christ, the God-Man whom the Father has exalted to the highest place and has given Him all authority over heaven and earth. Our faith is placed in Him and He is the only one whom we preach, for He alone has the power to save this lost world and make all things new.

With heartfelt gratitude to our Great King and to you, our prayer supporters, we would like to share some prayer requests about God's work in Manzanares.

### HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Once again, in the last week of June, we were able to hold the Holiday Bible Club. Despite the intense heat we have been experiencing in La Mancha, attendance was good with an average of 35 children through the week. As we hold this in the open air, we are able to have conversations with parents who come with their children. On the final day we gave a gift of a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs to each family. We thank the Lord for this new opportunity to share the gospel, and we ask that the families will read God's Word and that it will bring life through the Holy Spirit.



## **EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN**

In July we were involved in the Evangelistic Campaign, visiting nine towns in our region. We have a lot to thank the Lord for: the team of 30 workers, supported by nine young people from the Exodus ministry; the permits from the Town Halls; and all the technical resources for presenting the gospel in a worthy way in the town squares. Please pray for people to be converted to Christ, and that the Lord would continue to give us compassion for the lost and encouragement in preaching the gospel.

## **SOCIAL WORK**

In July we received 2,000 kilos of food supplies and we were able to resume the social work. This year we have 82 families on our list, many of whom are Moroccans; the number of whole families arriving in Spain from Morocco is growing exponentially. They arrive without documents and no possibility of working legally, so they are forced to work very long days illegally in the fields. Please pray that the Lord gives us vision to show them His love in what we say and do for them. Please pray that the literature we give to each family will make an impression in their hearts.

## MEMBRILLA

We are finding it difficult to open a meeting place in Membrilla due to the very high rental costs.

Moreover, this year the Manzanares congregation has undertaken to provide a larger percentage of the pastoral salary, requiring greater financial effort.

However, we trust that the Lord will open doors for a place of witness in Membrilla.

Meanwhile, we continue to distribute literature from house to house.



## PAQUI AND FAMILY

In May, Paqui's husband Ramón passed into the presence of the Lord after several years of fighting a disease of the pancreas.

Many unbelieving relatives and friends attended the funeral and could hear the gospel, some again and some for the first time.

Please pray for this seed and also for the family to be comforted, especially Paqui; outwardly she is strong, but her heart is sad.

## AURELIO

Early in May, Aurelio had a heart attack in the early hours and had to be taken urgently to hospital in Ciudad Real. Two arteries were nearly completely blocked. They only cleared one artery and, due to the long waiting list, the hospital have not yet called him for clearing the second artery, which is the most blocked.

Please pray that his heart will cope until they call him. Please pray also for his spiritual wellbeing; he continues to attend the discipleship classes, but we see him very depressed emotionally.

## FAMILY

Toñy's parents are getting older and more dependent, which means we have to take time out from ministry to help them, but we know it is our responsibility to care for our parents as much as we can. Please pray for good health for them and wisdom for us to know how to combine the ministry and the care they need.

Thank you for raising your supplications to the Throne!

## ***Manolo and Toñy***

# **MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE**

José and Lidia Valero



*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)*

I've always been very interested in the words of this Bible verse. God did not promise Joshua that he would have no problems or difficulties, but that he should be courageous to face them. The reason for this is that God was with Joshua, just as the Shepherd in Psalm 23 was with those who were passing through the valley of the shadow of death.

We could say that strength and courage are characteristics of a Christian who has trusted in God's power. But fear and discouragement may divert us away from this promise guaranteeing us our Lord's company and protection. Just like Joshua, we must learn to look to God in spite of circumstances and immerse ourselves in His power, full of mercy and love.

Once again we must thank you for your prayers and support for our ministry in Monescillo. The Lord encourages us through your prayers and we can see His hand in all we do for Him here. We feel like Joshua, called to be courageous in spite of our circumstances and difficulties.

This time we have three prayer points asking that the Lord will go on blessing His work in this part of Spain and giving us the strength to continue the work.

## **PRAYER FOR THE BILINGUAL CAMP (HELD IN JULY)**

It's an honour to be able work with children, especially if they are from non-Christian homes. Thanks to gifts from some brothers and sisters, we were able to fund some children from families living near the church. The parents were very grateful for this kindness and the children were very happy. God's Word was preached and sown in the hearts of the children and parents who



came to the camp's closing event. May we pray that what was shared will bring fruit in their lives.



*Bilingual camp*

### **PRAYER FOR THE EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN**

This July, some brothers and sisters from the UK stayed with us in Monescillo, including David and Jacky Cogman, Josh (a young man from England) and some young people from the Exodus Group in Northern Ireland, who were here to help with the evangelistic campaign held each year in July. In addition to receiving help from the young people, we were also able to show them God's work in this part of Spain and challenge them to serve the Lord where He calls them. Let's pray that this experience will encourage them in their spiritual life and open their hearts to work for the Lord.



*The team*



*Churros for breakfast*

## **PRAYER FOR FUTURE PROJECTS**

Amongst the plans we have in mind, we want to continue replacing the mattresses (still 30 to go) and refurbishing two bedrooms. We have completed one bedroom using floor tiles left over from other jobs, and now we want to buy new materials for these two rooms to enable us to complete the refurbishment. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to deal with these projects and vision going forward to ensure that Monescillo is a place worthy for God's glory.

May God bless you and keep you in His ways. With love in Christ.

**José and Lidia**

## **MISSION SECRETARIES**

**David & Jacky Cogman**

### **HOME AND AWAY**

*I would have lost heart, if I had not believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. (Psalm 27:13)*

The psalmist testifies to God's help and gives a strong exhortation to persevere.

While it can be said that there is not a high demand for deputation visits from the churches, there are still opportunities to share what SGM is doing on a regular basis, and we trust that these visits will bear fruit – so we do not lose heart. Recent invitations from supporting churches include Zion (Ripon), Artillery Street (Colchester) and Barton Evangelical Church. We thank the Lord for these churches which have supported the work for many years.

In addition to these encouragements at home, we were able to visit our brothers and sisters in Spain in July for two weeks. The evangelistic campaign was in full swing, despite the unusually high temperatures of 44°C at times, and nine young people from Ballyclare, Northern Ireland were staying at the Mission Centre. There was also a young man from Bristol called Josh who quickly integrated with them and helped with translation. It was good to

have fellowship with them and our Spanish friends. Especially pleasing was to see how some of the Spanish young people had matured in the faith and were now able to shoulder much of the responsibility of the evangelistic work. The pastors see the need to encourage others to take up the reins. They need our prayers. Please pray that good contacts made would continue and that gospels, Bibles and tracts taken would be read and people would seek to know the Lord.

The highlight of the visit was being able to attend the baptism of Fernando from Santa Cruz, who testified to the goodness of God in enabling him to overcome chronic agoraphobia. (He did not leave the house for 25 years.) With the help of Germán, a deacon from the church, who encouraged and helped him to go shopping etc., he eventually started to attend church services, where the Lord changed his heart. Please pray for Fernando's growth in the Lord and thank the Lord for such encouragement to the tiny church in Santa Cruz.

Also please continue to pray for Pepe and Lidia, who strive to maintain the Centre to a high standard with enthusiasm and zeal. Jacky had the opportunity of meeting up with some of the ladies of the craft workshop: please continue to pray for them.



Our deputation visits in September include Atworth (near Corsham), Whiteshill (near Bristol), Lincoln Evangelical Church and Bromborough Evangelical Church.

Join us in giving thanks to God for Trevor Jones who has been appointed as our new Treasurer, taking over from Simon Nobbs who is now the Mission Chairman. Please pray that Trevor would quickly settle into the post and would know God's blessing.

**From September, please send any cheques to:**

**Mr Trevor Jones, 8 Harvey Avenue, Greasby, Wirral, CH49 1RT.**

Thank you for your continued prayer support.

***David and Jacky***

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