



Pray for Spain

December 2023/
January 2024



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



(Christmas scene beside Valdepeñas Town Hall)

*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will
find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

(Luke 2:11,12)

**We read of preaching the Word out of season,
but we do not read of praying out of season,
for that is never out of season.**

(Matthew Henry)

MANZANARES

Manuel and Toñy Valero



"The kingdom of God ... is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches." (Luke 13:18,19)

The streets and shops are announcing that we shall soon celebrate the most sublime birth ever on earth: that of the Messiah foretold over hundreds of years, whose mission was to bring God's redeeming kingdom to this world: a kingdom of light, completely against this world's darkness. The King came, bringing the kingdom to us. By preaching the gospel this kingdom lights up the shadows of man's heart, and grows until completion when the King returns in glory. But until then we continue to proclaim this omnipotent King, Christ Jesus, the only one able to lighten our darkness and welcome us into His wonderful kingdom of light.

A Spanish proverb says, "Gratitude is the sign of noble souls". We want to express our gratitude to all of you for faithfully upholding us in your prayers.

DIFFICULT TIMES

After suffering a painful illness for three years, Juana, Toñy's mother, went to be with the Lord on 30 August. "Farewell, Juana, you are home now; we shall soon be together again." What a blessing to have such hope! This has given us joy to sustain us, though the parting is sad. Thank you for praying for us during this time of mourning; the Father of all comfort is at our side.



Toñy with her parents, Juana and Vicente

Since Juana's passing, we lived for nearly two months at Vicente's house to look after him, as he has early dementia and needs constant care. On 17 October he moved to an old people's home (the one where Manolo's father lives), and he is receiving the care he needs. We ask that you pray for Vicente as he adjusts to life there.

RESUMPTION OF MINISTRIES

Due to the reasons mentioned above, we had to delay resuming our church ministries. With months of significant emotional exhaustion, we felt very tired and fearful about returning to ministry, but the Lord has given us strength and now we are covering all the church ministries. Please pray that we will not falter and that we can serve God's people with the fervour His work deserves.

MARRIED COUPLES' RETREAT

The first weekend in November this retreat was organised by the Castilla La Mancha Evangelical Council with which we are actively involved. About 50 couples attended and it was a time of spiritual renewal and challenge to our lives as Christian married couples. Please pray that the Lord would apply to each of us His word that was preached.



PASTORAL

It's no secret how the devil is shaking the foundations of society by breaking God's teaching about family life. Matrimonial problems are intensifying in the churches, and our congregation is no exception. We ask that you pray for the couples we are pastoring; the Lord knows them and the problems they are going through. May He bring humility, wisdom and spiritual maturity in their lives. Pray for the children who suffer from their parents'

poor relationship and pray for us in our task of advising them, that God would give us wisdom to know how to help them.

DISCIPLING

We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to teach His Word one-to-one or in groups. There are five Bible study classes. Our request is that the study of God's Word would be applied in practice in people's lives.

We ask for prayer for Sergio and Paula with their son Ántoni. This couple attend the Sunday services. They have also attended some classes for unbelievers, but now, although still coming on Sundays, they have little interest in continuing the Bible studies. Please pray that God will cause them to want to learn from His word and find the TRUTH.

YOUNG PEOPLE

It's a joy for us to see our young people being faithful in their meetings and committed to the church ministries. We also thank the Lord that He has provided work for nearly all of those of working age. Only Sandra and Keila are without a stable job. Our young people live in a very aggressive society and we must continually ask the Lord that they will be firm in their faith against all winds of doctrine and worldly ethics.

EVANGELISM

With Christmas coming, we shall be delivering tracts in Manzanares and Membrilla to proclaim the Saviour. We pray that the seed will fall on good ground and give 100% fruit. Please pray also for the Christmas meal on 17 December and the Christmas service on 24 December. Pray that the gospel will have an impact on the non-believers who will attend, God willing.

HEALTH

Manolo had an abdominal hernia operation on 23 November. The surgeons were assessing whether to operate for a gall stone at the same time. Please pray that the Lord will give a successful outcome and good post-op recovery.

May God bless His work at this time!

Manolo and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

(Psalm 24:1)

Although very many people are indoctrinated into believing that everything happened by chance and evolution, the Bible clearly states that God is the creator and upholder of everything that exists. Keeping this in mind gives Christians peace, because our future does not depend on external causes but on God who is in control of everything that happens. And, just as the earth is established in God's omnipotent power, so our life is established on the eternal Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, our God's greatness makes us think about the privilege of feeling loved and protected by Him. If the Lord can create and maintain His creation with just one word, He can certainly take care of us and uphold His work in His hands. That's why we appeal daily to His grace and mercy so that He will continue working in each of our lives and ministries.

From the Monescillo Mission House, we want to thank all of you who pray to the Lord interceding for His work here in Valdepeñas. We are aware of your support and encouragement to keep on going, and we are very grateful for your love and affection. This time we are sharing the following prayer points:

CHURCH EVENTS

Last month we hosted a retreat for a church in Jaén and another for young people. Some unbelievers attended, especially for the young people's retreat, and they were affected by the good atmosphere and teaching of the Word. Let's pray to the Lord that what they heard will bear fruit.



Úbeda (Jaén) church retreat



Young people's retreat

MARRIED COUPLES' WORKSHOP

Lidia Martín (a clinical psychologist) led the workshop this time. Please pray that the Lord will strengthen our married couples and families and keep us in the truth that we find in His Word.



Couples' workshop



Craft workshop

CRAFT WORKSHOP

In recent weeks, some more women have joined the craft workshop. One of them attends the church and is keen to learn about the Lord. Please pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to be able to guide her to Him and that He will open her heart so that she will commit her life to Christ.

HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE HEART

This is the second workshop for young women arranged by Noemí Valero and Montse Merlo. We need to pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of those who attend, bringing blessing to their lives.

FOR THE FUTURE

We know that we depend upon God's grace, but we need to put ourselves in His hands so that he can bless us and work in the best way for His work. Without Him, all we do will be of no avail. Let's pray that the Lord will continue to uphold His work here in Monescillo and that His name will be glorified here.

Thank you for your prayers. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

José and Lidia

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman



*"Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother."
(ROMANS 16:23)*

DEPUTATION

We have met a number of people for the first time this year as a result of visiting churches to present the work of the Mission. Meeting people in this way is a constant source of joy and many have made an impact on our lives more than they imagine. Some, like Gaius who only gets an occasional mention in the Bible, have given us overnight accommodation and we thank the Lord for them.

Our most recent deputation visit was to West Worthing Evangelical Church, the first time a representative of SGM has been invited to present the work of the Mission there. We thank the fellowship for their invitation, welcome and generous hospitality.



Indeed, we praise the Lord for all the visits we have made during the year, it is always an encouragement to us as people show an interest and pray for the work of the Lord in Spain.

Please pray for the organising of visits for 2024. The first one is scheduled for 31 January at Trinity Church, Rainhill.

UK COUNCIL

Due to a bout of ill health, we were unable to attend the UK Council meeting in person which was held in Dudley. We did, however, manage to attend sporadically when the Zoom connection enabled us to!

Please continue to pray for the Chairman, Simon Nobbs, coping with dialysis whilst waiting for a kidney transplant. Trevor Jones would also value prayer as he takes on the role of Treasurer.

PRAYER MEETINGS

Did you know there is a monthly SGM Prayer Meeting via Zoom? This now normally takes place at 7.30 pm on the last Friday of the month – the next one is scheduled for Friday 26 January 2024. Every other month one of the Spanish couples working in the Mission joins us to give an update and items for prayer. If you would like to attend regularly or just occasionally, then please let us know and we can add you to the email invitation list.

Our details are below.

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Happy Christmas.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support during 2023, and thank you for your continued prayer support.

David and Jacky