



Pray for Spain

February/March 2024



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

We are planning the Mission's bi-annual Spanish Experience for September this year. This includes staying in the Mission House for a week, visiting the Mission churches and trips to local places of interest. Please let David and Jacky know if you want to come.

More details regarding dates, travel, etc. will be given soon.

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MORAL DE CALATRAVA

José Luis and Noemí Alfonso



*'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'
says the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 4:6*

I read this comment in a recent devotional:

"This verse embodies the important truth that the Lord's work is not achieved by human strength and ability but by the Holy Spirit. God's work does not advance due to power, strength or anything else; it is only through the Holy Spirit. Much so-called 'Christian work' these days could go on without the Holy Spirit. However, real Christian work is where He is absolutely essential, fighting the spiritual battle – not with carnal weapons but with prayer, faith and God's Word."

This made me think about my work for God. In the past I tended to do lots of things for the Kingdom of God: activity programmes for young people and adults, conferences, radio, social networks, summer evangelism, camps, etc. Looking back over the years, we wonder where the fruit is – in truth there isn't much to see, at least through human eyes. I hope and trust that God will indeed give fruit one day from this work. We should be asking: Which

work was carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit? That is the key. Is what I have done or what we are doing now under the guidance, direction, power, will and blessing of the Holy Spirit? To say "Much so-called 'Christian work' these days could go on without the Holy Spirit" is very serious and extremely sad. My heart shudders to think that we are working in God's Kingdom without Him being present. The soldier must prepare for battle, but the victory is the Lord's. We must do God's work in His power and will. So, on my recent 55th birthday, I prayed that God would give me a new vision for His work here in Moral: what we should and should not do; that all would be in accordance with the will of the Holy Spirit and the eternal purposes for this town; and that He would work in the hearts of His children and in the lost souls here in Moral, for God's glory alone, not man's.

MEMBERS' HEALTH

I ask that you pray for our dear sister, Paula, who is in poor health. She is getting more and more frail. She is really feeling her age, and is not able to attend services.

Please pray for Josefina who is struggling with her illness and still does not have the mental strength to start attending Sunday services again. Also, her sister Cati has been very ill with a serious attack of flu and unable to attend for a month.

Please continue praying for Alberto whose hearing and sight have deteriorated, but he still attends Sunday services. Also for Maribel and for Ambrosio; he cannot attend due to poor health.

Praise the Lord for the recovery of my brother, Nicolas, from Covid and pneumonia.

DISCIPLING

Encarna is discipling Marianny, who is making good progress. However, she has been unable to attend Sunday services recently due to her work. Pray for her because at present the father of her daughter Isabella is living in her house and it seems he is going to stay in Spain. Pray that he will find work.

Noemí continues to work with Mari Nieves, Andrea, Yoli and Tere. They are very happy and enjoying the Bible studies. Pray that God would work in the heart of each of these ladies.

SEEKING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Recently the Lord has been putting it on my heart to deal with the subject of "seeking spiritual renewal". Having thought it over and prayed, we decided to start a meeting on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. when we will look at Bible texts about believers' spiritual renewal. After discussion we'll spend time praying for renewal, personal and as a church. Please pray for us; we need to be renewed each day so that we can live in the light of the Lord's holy will.

AMECLAM FRIENDSHIP DAY

On 12 October we held the Ciudad Real Evangelical Churches' friendship day, organised by the pastors' fraternal AMECLAM. I am honoured to have been re-elected as chairman. We worked together to organise this get-together, which was of great blessing to all who were there. About 120 people attended for the day. We held the meetings in the municipal hall and then ate at the municipal market, which is ideal for these meetings. The councillor for culture and the opposition councillor attended, as well as a representation of the provincial delegate of the Department of Development in Ciudad Real. Our theme was: Why evangelise? We thank God for a good time with His people.

CECLAM RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES

We are very grateful to the Lord that this took place. 55 couples attended full-time and others joined us on the two days. It was a very good time. The speakers, Esteban Figueirido and his wife Bea Gonzalez, were a great blessing to us all. Please pray for Christian couples, and those in our church and for their children.

SEFOVAN BIBLE TRAINING BY EXTENSION

In December we had our last class of the year and enjoyed a Christmas meal with all the students. We thank God for this training we are giving to many students, past and present. Please pray that the Lord would send more who want to grow in the Word and be trained to be more useful in their home churches.

In January, I was able to carry out a two-day training workshop online with the USA so I can be a teacher and BCTP associate, thus enabling me to give this training at any time, while having the option to open other training places anywhere. We are grateful to the Lord that this door has been opened.

NOA'S DEDICATION

In November, little Noa was presented to the Lord. She is the daughter of Jose Antonio and Ana Belén, whose relatives attended the service, which was very special and moving. I was able to share with everyone present, and especially the parents, the importance of bringing Noa up to follow our dear Lord. After the service we stayed to enjoy a delicious paella which Noa's grandparents (Encarna and Arnelio) had prepared for us all. Please pray for this couple and their daughter Noa.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year we were able to send 13 Christmas boxes for this ministry. It's a privilege to be able to show God's love in a small way to the children who receive these boxes. We pray that God will work in the hearts of those who receive them.

BIBLE ADVENTURE KIDSCLUB

Mariana continues to work with the children and, gradually, more are joining. Three of those in the photo come to church on Sundays; the rest come rarely or never. Please pray for them and their parents that God would work in their lives.



Bible Adventure KidsClub



Children's service

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

We had a special service for children on 7 January. Those who attend the Club joined in with those who attend Sunday School. They had prepared songs and poems to share with us all. Also, the Sunday School children received a prize for regular attendance through the year, and they were all given a bag of sweets (making the adults jealous!).

VISIT TO CARE HOME

As in previous years, we visited the old people's home in Moral at Christmas. We were able to sing several Christmas hymns and share a short gospel message. They enjoy our visit and are pleased to hear the gospel. We then have a short chat with each of them and listen to what they want to tell us. This time I met a 99-year-old neighbour whose mind is very lucid; he cried when he spoke to me about Jesus and I was moved to hear him. Please pray for our elderly people.

CLM GOSPEL CHOIR



This choir that we were involved with in the past is going to resume its ministry. On 10 February in Moral there will be an audition for people who want to join the choir. We are pleased that this is getting back on track and we are praying that it will be a great blessing for God's work here in La Mancha and other parts of Spain.

PRAY FOR THE MISSION WORKERS

We thank you all for faithfully praying for us and the Mission's financial situation. Once again we have seen God's hand providing over recent months, for which we are extremely grateful to the Lord and to all of you for your support. Please continue to pray for the workers, their families, their health, for encouragement and for the churches where they serve.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY

Thank you for praying for us. Noemí and I are well although I had Covid in December before going to Galicia. Noemí is getting ready

for exams to be taken in January; pray for her as this is her final year and she wants to complete it. In human terms, our sons are well. Natanael is very happy living and working in Ciudad Real. He and his girlfriend have decided to give up smoking, using treatment provided by Social Services and it seems to be going well. Please pray for them. Currently, Eric is without work and has several options. We are trusting that he will choose the best one to train him for his future work. My in-laws are well though limited by their health constraints, especially my father-in-law's poor mobility. They are well cared for, but needing more and more help. Please pray for them.

With love and gratitude in Christ.

Jose Luis and Noemí Alfonso

SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA

Sergio, Chani & Jennifer



'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.' Isaiah 43:1

These words of God to us, His people, are so comforting and full of hope! He deals with us personally, He knows us and reminds us that we are His, under His powerful protection. Glory to God! As always, we are very thankful to the Lord for your support and for each of you holding us and the work in Santa Cruz de Mudela in your prayers. In this first month of the year we are able to give thanks to God that He has helped us up to now and that He is our Ebenezer.

EVANGELISM

At Christmas we held a special service to celebrate our dear Lord's birth. We invited relatives and others, and some attended, including a couple from Viso del Marqués who have been in contact with us for a while and (much to our surprise) the mayor together with a town councillor. They stayed for the whole service and for refreshments afterwards. It was a good time of witness and evangelism.



Choral group



Germán

We distributed Good News calendars to many contacts in the town. Pray that the Lord will produce fruit from His Word.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Ramón is weaker, moving and talking less; each time we visit he rejoices in the Word. Pray for Sofi who is finding it increasingly difficult to care for him, as her strength is also dwindling.

Pray that the Lord will help Juana; her hearing is fading and she cannot benefit from all that is shared from the Word in church.

Paquita needs prayer for the Lord's help with her health problems. She is weak and very forgetful.

Pray that Fernando will continue to grow in the Lord, for his Sefovan studies, and that he will have the desire to serve the Lord and share in the work of the church.

Alfonso's health is getting worse; please pray also for his wife Juani who remains distant from the gospel.

Pray for Sara; pray that the Spirit would cause David to submit to the Lord; and pray for their children, Samuel and Sofía.

Pray that Germán and Eva remain faithful to the Lord, serving Him in the church. Eva's pain due to her arthritis is getting worse.

ACTIVITIES

We recently held a week of praying in people's homes. Some of our elderly sisters can no longer attend regularly, but by going to their homes we can spend time with them in the Word and in prayer.

Each week we continue to visit and disciple Tainej, who lives in Viso del Marqués. She reads a lot and shows great interest in hearing and knowing more about the Lord. Pray that the Lord would continue working in her life and that she can have assurance of receiving the Lord into her life. We have less contact with Emilio as he spends all his time at work, and we only see him occasionally. Please pray for this couple.

Please pray for the Sunday School and that Jenni, Samuel and Sofia may come to know the Lord.

Pray too that the Lord would show us when to restart the Bible Club with the local children. This summer, Chani is planning to hold the Holiday Bible Club from Monday to Friday for a whole month. Please pray that this would be possible and the necessary help and monitors would be available.

FAMILY

This Christmas we were able to spend a few days in the Canary Islands with our elderly mothers; we had a good time with them. Please pray for them. Thanks to the Lord they are in good health and the Lord is taking care of them.

We thank God for Jennifer. Her studies are going quite well. This will be her last year at the local school; then she will have to go to a school in Ciudad Real to study for a specific job. She still goes each week to her occupational and speech therapists.

Please pray for our daughter Eli, her husband and our granddaughters. It is painful for us to have no contact with them and that their hearts are hardened against coming back to the Lord.

Pray for our son Pablo and his family to remain faithful to the Lord amidst their trials. They are now without work. Please ask God to provide them both with suitable work. Pray for our grandsons that they will surrender to the Lord as they grow up.

As ever, please pray for us, for Chani's health, and that the Lord would give us courage, vision and wisdom in serving the church and preaching the gospel.

With love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sergio, Chani and Jennifer