



Pray for Spain

October/November 2023



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

Holiday Bible Clubs, June 2023

↓ Moral de Calatrava and Santa Cruz →



VidaXtrema campaign, July 2023

The team



Castellar



Santa Cruz



Moral



Torrenueva



MORAL DE CALATRAVA

José Luis and Noemí Alfonso



"Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears." Hosea 6:4

Dear brothers and sisters,

I remember, as a child in my parents' house in Galicia, the hard winter days, weeks and months when the wind lashed the coasts and our windows, raining every day, making our childhood boring and the days very long. I entertained myself by blowing against the window to create a mist for drawing and writing on, but it soon disappeared and I had to keep breathing out hot air to start again.

The above text teaches us how fleeting life is. We are like the child breathing on the window, or like the morning mist. Life passes quickly and often we don't stop to think about this. It is very important to stop and look up to God, the only one who is infinitely eternal, not affected by time. He does not fade away like the mist. Our future is in the hands of the sovereign God. We don't know what will arise tomorrow, but the Lord certainly has control over tomorrow. Knowing this, brothers and sisters, how can we use our time? Are we ready to dedicate hours of our life to the Lord? Are we investing in the Kingdom of God? Are we getting our priorities right?

James 4:15 exhorts us to rest in God's perfect will for our lives, in all areas: personal, family, social, working and above all spiritual. *"Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'"*

MEMBERS' HEALTH

Several of our older members are unwell. Paula broke her hip in July. She couldn't be discharged to her home but had to stay in a care home for two months to recover from surgery. Now home, she is very frail and has very little mobility, so is not able to attend services, which she misses a lot. Pray for her.



Isabella, Marianny's eldest daughter, is 12 and is having cognitive tests; due to having many epileptic seizures as a child they think she might have brain damage. Pray for her mother, Marianny, who again has problems with kidney stones. She is a strong young lady and works hard to provide food for the family, so she needs good health.

Please pray for the other members including Maribel, Amalia, Alberto, Ambrosio, Cati, and Matías and Josefina, who all have health problems.

DISCIPLING

Discipling classes have resumed. Encarna is working with Marianny who is progressing very well. Noemí will work with Maria Nieves and Tere; also with Andrea and Yolanda who are not believers. I will be working with Antonio and I want to include Alexander, a brother who attends church but needs instruction in the Word.

12 OCTOBER CELEBRATION

On 12 October we are going to celebrate the "Ciudad Real churches day of friendship" in Moral de Calatrava. It is being organised by AMECLAM, the pastors' fraternity. We hope to enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters from our province and in God's Word. Our theme will be: "Why evangelise? How to do it?" We have invited our brother Jorge Adrian Gonzalez, a member of the *Caja Roja* (Red Box), an evangelistic ministry team based in Madrid. We shall be inviting local authorities and will give them a Bible and other books. Please pray for all the preparation.

AMECLAM PASTORAL COUPLES' RETREAT

We had asked for prayer for this retreat which was held 2-3 June. It was a very special time looking at "ministerial renewal" with Eduardo Delás. The talks, discussions and especially the fellowship helped us all to renew our perspective on pastoral ministry and was encouraging for all the couples. Please pray for the ministers in the area.



SEFOVAN BIBLE TRAINING BY EXTENSION

The SEFOVAN Bible training has started again with nine students from before and some just starting. Please ask the Lord for more people to want to be trained in God's Word, to be instruments of blessing in their home churches.

LADIES' BREAKFAST

This important ministry has resumed. The ladies are keen to organise the evangelistic breakfasts where they can invite friends or relatives to hear the gospel. Please pray for this outreach.

BIBLE ADVENTURE KIDSLUB

We are very grateful for the amazing work that our sister Mariana is doing with the children who attend. She prepares the classes very well and connects with the children. Please pray for her as she has many struggles and a strong desire to share the gospel with the people of Moral, especially her family here.

Pray for the children who attend: Sofía, Estefan, Matei and Darius – Andrea and Florin's children. Darius, the eldest, is going through a difficult time being bullied at secondary school, even though those children were his friends in junior school. His parents are also finding this situation difficult. Manuel, Isabella, Vicky and María also regularly attend the club.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

It was a real blessing this year to be able to go ahead with this, with the theme: "Train of emotions". The children greatly enjoyed the lessons, verses and English songs, as well as craft, games, dancing and other activities. 35 to 40 children attended every day and the parents told us that their children had a tremendous time. Please pray for the seed sown in the youngsters' hearts and that God would work in their lives in His time.

VIDAEXTREMA CAMPAIGN 2023

It was a real challenge to carry out the outreach campaign this year – partly due to the high July temperatures in La Mancha (38-44°C) but also due to the lack of permits from the town halls in Membrilla and Villanueva de los Infantes. We were able, however, to take the gospel message to Castellar de Santiago,

Torrenueva, Santa Cruz de Mudela, Manzanares, Valdepeñas, Bolaños and Moral de Calatrava. We distributed thousands of tracts and gave away Scripture portions. We ask you to pray that the Lord would work through His Spirit in the hearts of all who heard the gospel.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY

We were able to spend a very special time in August visiting my parents-in-law at O Grove. We thank God that they are well, although my father-in-law is finding it more difficult each day to mobilise as his legs are so weak; however, his cancer is not a problem at present. My mother-in-law has recovered well from her heart surgery and is improving daily. We were able to care for them, help with household chores and tidy their garden a little (which has given them much happiness through the years), and it was a privilege for us to help them. On 16 October, Noemí will go to be with them for a week, so she can accompany her mother when she has her heart review.

Noemí and I are well and trying to keep focused on our responsibilities in the church, though family burdens sometimes take up our time and drain our energy, but thanks to God we are able to deal with it all at the moment. Please pray for us as a couple and as God's servants – we need much care, direction and wisdom from the Lord.

I have just recovered from COVID; I had symptoms for a week with high fevers, muscular pains, etc. My hearing is still affected, but improving. I had to be confined to the house and to cancel various planned ministries, but thank the Lord I feel better and am regaining strength.

Pray for our sons. Natanael has gone to live and work in Ciudad Real this year as a waiter and he is happy. Eric is working in Moral for a cladding company and also helped with the grape harvest. Pray for their lives, especially their spiritual life that the Lord would work in their hearts.

Thank you dear brothers and sisters for your prayers.

With love and gratitude in Christ.

José Luis and Noemí

SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA

Sergio, Chani & Jennifer



"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

It is so difficult for us to be still when faced with difficulties and testing! The Lord told us, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." God's children are not exempt from problems and pain. But He calls us to rest in His Son, knowing that He is in control of everything and nothing is hidden from Him. His grace is sufficient, so that God's power

can be seen in us and He will be glorified in our lives.

We trust God for renewed strength, giving us encouragement and wisdom to carry on preaching the gospel and pastoring His flock.

We thank the Lord for your support and the prayers faithfully presented to Him. Please pray for His work here, where there is so much indifference and idolatry, that the light of the gospel will penetrate the darkness and shine in the hearts of people who need to believe in order to have eternal life. To God be all the glory!

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Thanks be to the Lord who always surprises us! This year 43 children attended each day and the Lord took care of us so that, even with so many children, it went ahead each day without incident. Most of the children registered to join the Club on the first day it was announced, so we didn't need to send out invites – the mothers were telling us that they wanted their children to be part of the Holiday Bible Club. Each day they heard the Word of God through various activities: Bible story, songs, craft, etc. We were a little worried the first day with only a few helpers, but the Lord provided enough for each day. It was a blessing to have two girls helping who had attended our Children's Bible Club for nine years and fondly remember their time there and in the Holiday Bible Clubs; let's pray that the Word they heard during all this time would bear fruit. We also thank God for the sisters who came from the UK to help us, blessing us and the children.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

We thank God that we were able to hold the evangelistic campaign in July this year. Several people attended in Santa Cruz and were able to hear the gospel message presented by the young people and preaching of God's Word. Also we were able to work in Torrenueva and Castellar de Santiago without hindrance.

We praise God for the brothers and sisters, especially the young people; we are so thankful for the effort they make each year to participate in the campaign, putting in a lot of work through the two weeks. An Exodus group also helped us this year, working with the young people from our churches in the various activities.

BAPTISM

On 16 July we had a baptismal service, and we praise God that our brother Fernando Marín testified in public about his faith, being baptised in obedience to the Lord's command. The Lord gave him strength and the words to say, witnessing to his relatives and the congregation about the work the Lord has done in his life.



Please pray for Fernando that the Lord would keep him firm in the faith. He wants to start attending the SEFOVAN Bible training course at Monescillo this year. He is very motivated and ready to help where he can. I continue discipling him each week and he attends all the church services.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Please pray for our elderly brothers and sisters. Ask the Lord to continue helping and strengthening Juana, as well as Ramón and Sofi. Recently Paquita has had many health problems and little strength, meaning she cannot meet with us as much as she would like; please ask the Lord to heal and strengthen her. Pray for Alfonso that he will be faithful to the Lord; his illness is getting worse, and he is losing his balance and his hearing.

We are thankful to God that Germán and Eva continue to be faithful to the Lord and help in the church. Pray too for Sara to remain faithful; also for her husband David and their children Samuel and Sofía.

We continue to have contact with Emilio and Tainey who have visited us on several occasions. They live in a nearby town and are quite interested in the gospel; due to work, they cannot attend as often as they would like. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in their lives and they will come to know the Lord.

FAMILY

Jennifer has started year 4 of secondary school and is doing quite well. She continues with the occupational and speech therapy. Her health is quite good, and we can see that she is maturing and being more responsible in her studies.

Chani's health is a bit better now, although she still has moderate pain that isn't going away.

Our daughter Eli gave birth to a baby girl on 14 September; she needed a Caesarean section as the baby was very underweight and her vital signs were very weak. Thanks to God they are both well and recovering. So we are grandparents for a fifth time. Please pray for Eli – she is not well emotionally and is still not drawing close to the Lord. We have not been able to see them, so we only know the baby from photos.

As always, please pray for us that the Lord would give us vision, encouragement and wisdom in serving the church and continuing to preach the gospel.

With love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sergio, Chani and Jennifer