



Pray for Spain

April/May 2024



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



*Ermita Virgen del Espino de Membrilla
(a sanctuary devoted to the patron saint of Membrilla)*

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being
watchful and thankful.**

(Colossians 4:2)

MANZANARES

Manuel and Toñy Valero



"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(Romans 5:8)

At Easter, the streets of every city, town and village in Spain fill with people processing behind many images of Jesus on the cross. For some it is mere religious fervour, for others pure folklore, and for very few a deep reflection of the true meaning of Christ's cross. Our prayer is that

God would use us at this time to explain the real meaning of Christ's sacrifice to many people: it shows God's great love in providing forgiveness for sinners.

We welcome this opportunity to share some prayer points with you.

VICENTE, TOÑY'S FATHER

As you know, after his wife died on 17 October Vicente went into a home. He has settled well and José (Manolo's father, also a resident in the home) is a great help to him, as Vicente has dementia. We ask for prayer because he is becoming very weak due to kidney problems and the renal consultant told us that he will need dialysis in a year's time.

MANOLO'S HEALTH

Last November I had an abdominal hernia operation with a mesh implanted; they also removed my gall bladder as I had a stone. In December, I started having pain in the lower colon due to inflammation; I had a colonoscopy at the end of March to look at the state of this inflammation. **Please pray for effective treatment that will enable me to continue with ministry activities.**

ATTENDANCE

In recent months we have had a stream of new people attending the Sunday services. Some are attending more regularly, others

less frequently. Most of them have various kinds of problems. **Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to know how to bring the gospel to each of them according to the personal situation that each person is going through.**

GABRIELA AND FAMILY

Towards the end of January we met an Argentinian family who are running a cafeteria in Manzanares. They are eight adults and three children. Gabriela, the mother, is from an evangelical family in Argentina, but she married a Mormon and their five daughters have been brought up as Mormons. Their troubled marriage ended in divorce. Gabriela came to Manzanares two years ago and lives with a Spanish Catholic man. Gabriela's daughters have been in Manzanares for about eight months. The whole family are attending church, including the husband of the eldest daughter, who had never heard the gospel, and the boyfriend of one of the daughters who comes from an evangelical family but left the Lord as a teenager. They are so interested in learning about the gospel that they have asked us to have Bible studies with them. We meet with the whole family each Monday for an hour and a half to study the Bible; we began with the plan of salvation. We believe Gabriela really is a believer, and also some of her daughters. **Please pray for this great opportunity so that the Lord will touch their hearts and that each of them will fall at His feet.**

EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITIES



Carols in Membrilla Social Centre



Carols in a square in Membrilla

We thank the Lord for the gospel opportunities we had at Christmas as we went out into the streets to sing Christmas carols and hand out leaflets. With the better weather coming, we shall start going out to spread the gospel in various parts of Manzanares and Membrilla. **Please pray that we shall have good opportunities to present the gospel collectively and personally.**

PREPARATION FOR SUMMER CAMPAIGN AND HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Please pray as preparations are made for the Holiday Bible Club for children (to be held the last week of June) and for the Evangelistic Campaign (to be held from 12 to 21 July).

SOCIAL WORK

The government has decided to change the way needy people are to be helped. Instead of sending actual food, they will give cheques for a certain amount of money. This new system is very complicated for us, as it involves administering money and evaluating the families. Therefore we have decided to carry out the social work independently, although this will mean helping fewer families as the resources will have to come 100% from the congregation, without outside help. **Please ask the Lord to guide us so we know how to plan this and that He will provide the necessary resources.**

BALDOMERO

Baldomero needs special prayer. He is a former drug addict, but he lives at home with a brother and father who are both drug addicts. In addition, he suffers physically as a consequence of his former life. Currently he is suffering with pneumonia, which has already lasted two months. Also, a spot has been found on his kidney and, although the biopsy result shows it is not malignant, the doctors said it must be checked regularly. **Please pray that his trust in the Lord would remain firm in the midst of this trial.**

Once again, many thanks for your support in prayer.

Manolo and Toñy

MONESCILLO MISSION HOUSE

José and Lidia Valero



"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

It is easy to get used to the comforts that this world offers us; and when we think we have everything, there is always something else to obtain to make us feel as comfortable as possible. However, instead of conforming to this kind of comfort that draws us away from God, the Lord wants us to give our life in His service so that He can shape us. Following Jesus is not easy; sometimes it is uncomfortable as we go against the tide in a world offering us their "perfection".

So the apostle Paul, in Romans 12 and 13, tells us things that might cause problems for us as we do not conform to the pattern of this world. The idea is that we cannot adopt the world's way of thinking, doing, living ... Our mind does not think in the same way that Godless people do. Therefore, the Christian's purpose is not to adopt the world's behaviour but to exercise God's holiness in our life; to do that, we must present ourselves to Him daily as a sacrifice that is pleasing in His eyes.

As always, we thank you for praying for our ministry. As I was just saying, we go against the tide and we need wisdom and strength from the Lord to carry on working in the time He grants to us to serve here.

We'd like to share four prayer points with you.

FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Thanks to God we are seeing an increase in activities recently. But the activities themselves have no significance if they are not covered by the Lord. **Let us pray that all we do this year will be to the glory and honour of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE CRAFT WORKSHOP

In recent months, nine ladies have joined the craft workshop. One of them is named Loli who has recently borne witness. Her husband-to-be is not a believer and we are praying that he will also come to the Lord. **Let us pray for Loli's husband and all the other ladies who attend the workshop that they will have a personal encounter with the Lord.**

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ATTEND THE ACTIVITIES

We have started a new meeting for older ladies. During our time together we have breakfast and then a devotional with discussion. It's a joy to be able to listen to their experiences, while the ladies are blessed by this time of fellowship. We also continue with the meetings for couples and for mothers. **Let us pray that all the people who come here are able to leave having been edified and touched by the Lord.**



Meeting for young mothers



Young men's mini retreat

FOR STRENGTH

We know it is sometimes quite complicated working with so many people and we can become discouraged in our effort to please the Lord. **Let us pray that the Lord would keep on strengthening us in His work and giving us wisdom to carry out this ministry.**

Thank you for your prayers. It's a pleasure to be surrounded by your love and support.

Yours in Christ, **José and Lidia**

MISSION SECRETARIES

David & Jacky Cogman



*"For everyone who asks receives,
and he who seeks finds, and
to him who knocks it will be
opened."* (Matthew 7:8)

PRAYER MEETINGS

We have been most encouraged that many people have joined us on Zoom for prayer, normally now held on the 4th Friday of every

month. Still others have assured us of their prayers even when they have been unable to join us.

The next meeting (via Zoom) is due to take place on Friday 26 April.

At the last meeting in March, Manolo and Toñy joined us and shared many of the encouragements and challenges they were experiencing in the church at Manzanares. It was not difficult to see that some of those related to topics we have been praying about. We quickly and humbly give thanks to our gracious God for answers to prayer.

(At the time of writing Toñy's father was in hospital due to pancreatitis, **please pray for his recovery.**)

VISITS TO CHURCHES

The photograph shows folk at a midweek missionary meeting we had the privilege of visiting in Rainhill recently. Other visits to churches over in the west of the country are planned, but specific dates have yet to be confirmed. Please pray that they will be soon. Our hope is that these dates may coincide with a visit from Sergio, the pastor of the Santa Cruz church, who is due to join us on deputation this year.



Trinity Church, Rainhill

SPANISH EXPERIENCE

We are planning to go ahead with the Spanish Experience between 14 and 21 September now that Manolo has reassured us that someone in the Mission churches will be able to assist with transport arrangements (i.e. provide someone to drive a minibus that week).

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUBS

There is an opportunity to help out with the Holiday Bible Clubs from 24 to 28 June this summer. If you can help please contact us, see details below. Or, please pray that helpers can be found and that the Lord would bless the time with the children.

We thank the Lord for your continued support.

David and Jacky

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