



Pray for Spain

June/July 2024



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

MORAL DE CALATRAVA

José Luis and Noemí Alfonso



But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

This year I am reading William MacDonald's devotional: "Truths to Live by - One Day at a

Time", and share his comments on this verse with you.

The Bible teaches that we become like what we worship. That important insight is found in today's text. Let's break it down this way:

But we all - that is, all true believers;

with open or unveiled face - sin causes a veil between our faces and the Lord. When we confess and forsake the sin, we have an open or unveiled face;

beholding as in a glass - the glass or mirror is the Word of God, in which we behold

the glory of the Lord - meaning His moral excellence. In the Bible we gaze upon the perfection of His character, the beauty of all His works and ways;

are changed into the same image - we become like Him. We are changed by beholding. The more we are occupied with Him, the more like Him we become.

This change is

from glory to glory - from one degree of glory to another. The change does not take place all at once. It is a process that continues as long as we behold Him. The transformation of our character is effected

even as by the Spirit of the Lord - the Holy Spirit produces likeness to Christ in all those who gaze by faith upon the Saviour as He is revealed in the Bible.

The way to holiness is through gazing upon the Lord Jesus. It is not ordinarily possible to think of Christ and of sin at the same time. During those moments when we are taken up with Him, we are most free from sin. Our goal then should be to increase the percentage of our time when we are beholding Him.

MEMBERS' HEALTH

Please pray for our brothers and sisters. I know it seems routine to ask prayer for those who are unwell but, dear friends, it is our responsibility to pray for one another, especially concerning our health. Keep in mind our elderly members like Paula, and her husband Sebastián; Alberto, whose hearing and sight are diminishing daily, but he has admirable strength of will; Ana María, amazing at 86 years as she makes the effort to attend Sunday services; Maribel, whose mobility is limited due to her hip and her foot, and her husband Ambrosio – he sits all day watching time pass, hardly able to move. Also remember Josefina whose poor health and wellbeing prevent her from going out. Pray for them all.

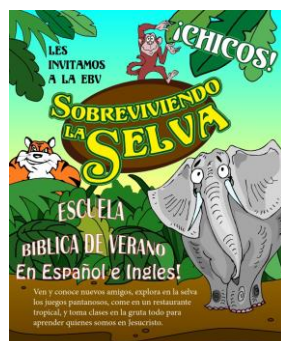
BIBLE ADVENTURE KIDSCLUB

Mariana continues to work with the 8 to 10 children in the club. In addition, the Lord has opened a door for her to work with seven girls from the town who want to improve their English; they attend Tuesdays or Fridays. Pray for the gospel seed being sown in these youngsters.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB


We are heavily involved in preparations for the Holiday Bible Club to be held from 25 to 28 June in the Agustín Sanz school. The theme is "Surviving in the jungle", looking at how Jesus can help us through life's difficulties.



Pray for the children who will attend and for all the team.



¡Venimos!
LES INVITAMOS A LA EBV
Sobreviviendo LA SELVA
ESCUELA BIBLICA DE VERANO
En Español e Inglés!

Ven y conoce nuevos amigos, explora en la selva los juegos permitidos, come en un restaurante tropical, y toma clases en la gran selva para aprender quienes somos en Jesucristo.

Organiza: 
Fecha: 25-28 Junio
Lugar: Colegio Agustín Sanz
Horario: 10:30am - 12:30pm
Educativo: 6 a 12 años
TOTALMENTE GRATUITO!

Escanea el código QR para inscribirte Online



VIDAXTREMA EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

This year, God-willing, we want to go to the town squares as previously to share the gospel. We will use the children's programme, "In search of eternal life, with the mad scientist". Please pray that permits will be granted for Castellar de Santiago, Torrenueva, Manzanares, Valdepeñas, Santa Cruz de Mudela, Membrilla (we'll go without the permit), Bolaños and Moral de Calatrava. Pray that the Lord will open doors for us in these places and that many people will approach to hear the gospel message. The campaign will be from 12 to 20 July (13 July in Moral). Please pray for the sowing of the seed.

BILINGUAL CAMP

The Mission workers and the Monescillo mission house are preparing for the next bilingual camp, "The sheriff's ranch", from 2 to 5 July. Pray for the children, and for the team as they work on the preparations for all to be ready for the camp. If any brother or sister wishes to help by subsidising a child, please contact the Mission in the UK or Spain. Thank you.



VISIT FROM PRISONERS (FROM ALCALÁ MECO, MADRID)

On Sunday 9 June we had a visit from a team who carry out pastoral visiting in the Alcalá Meco prison in Madrid, together with nine prisoners out on a special permit for 24 hours. 21 people arrived at Monescillo on the Saturday evening, and attended the service in Moral on Sunday. The leaders took part and there were testimonies of what God is doing in the life of some of the prisoners. Then José Luis gave a meditation on God's word around "New life in Christ and fellowship with God's family", encouraging the prisoners to live this new life and that, when they leave prison, they would have a family in the faith to care for them and help them to integrate socially. Please pray for the prisoners and the workers who visit them each week.

SEFOVAN BIBLE TRAINING BY EXTENSION

On 18 May we took part in our second Ciudad Real graduation ceremony together with Madrid SEFOVAN students. It was solemn and joyful. Seeing all the students happy to graduate after years of hard work, sacrifice and dedication makes us want to thank our God. Six of our students graduated, though only four could attend due to various personal circumstances.



We ended the year with eight students and will start the next year with these eight. I ask that you pray that more may want to study the word of God and be trained in Bible teaching.

This year SEFOVAN have asked me to be on the teaching staff (in fact they have been asking me for several years). After discussing this with my wife, the church council, Mission colleagues and trusted brothers, I decided to accept the invitation to teach two classes during this last term. I taught a class in Tenerife and another in Madrid, and the experience on a personal level was very positive and I think it has confirmed to me that I can contribute to this SEFOVAN teaching ministry. I have already been asked to give classes for the next academic year 2024-25 (two classes in Ciudad Real, one in Madrid, another in Las Palmas (Gran Canarias), and possibly another in Baeza (Jaén). Pray for

me and for the work involved in preparing these subjects, that they may be a blessing to me as well as to the students. Also on 3 June, we had a ZOOM meeting to present the SEFOVAN Training by Extension to the Albacete pastors' fraternal, and will see if it would be possible to open a centre there for teaching by extension. It would be a great blessing to be able to help those Christians by offering this teaching ministry there.

PRAY FOR THE MISSION WORKERS

We Mission workers want to thank you all for praying faithfully for us and the Mission's financial situation. Please pray that God will guide us and give us sufficient strength to cope with the work up to the end of July. June and July are very busy months and we need the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in all that lies ahead. Please pray also for the spiritual encouragement we need daily in our work; this involves perseverance and faithfulness, and we are small congregations. Please pray that the Lord would open doors in the UK for visits to more churches to talk about the Mission's work and to seek prayer support for our work here. Thank you.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY

We want to thank you for your prayers. In terms of health, we are well. We continue to have normal concern for our parents. Noemí's father is less and less mobile, and her mother had heart surgery, so the situation is complicated. Yet in the middle of all this we are both thankful as we see the Lord's hand caring for them. Humanly speaking, our sons are well. Natanael has started a new job as a salesman and he seems very content doing something he really enjoys. Eric is working mornings in Escayola doing cladding work; in the afternoons he is on a course about how to assemble photovoltaic solar panels, and he is happy. Noemí is in the middle of exams; please pray for her as she looks forward to finishing.

Thank you, dear friends, for your prayers. We need your support before the Throne of Grace; without God we are nothing and wish to do nothing. To Him alone be the glory!

With love and gratitude in Christ.

José Luis Alfonso and Noemí García

SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA

Sergio, Chani & Jennifer



Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!
Philippians 4:4

We thank the Lord for this Scripture which encourages us to rejoice in the Lord, whatever our circumstances. This joy should be manifested always, no matter what. We want to be anchored daily in God's word that never changes. Only by trusting in our Lord and what He tells us can we renew our strength to carry on proclaiming the gospel.

We thank you for your prayers for the Lord's work in Spain and for us, His servants, giving us encouragement and comfort.

VISITS

This month we welcomed a very dear family to our home and church. Mario came to the Lord many years ago and shared his testimony in church, having been delivered by God's grace from drug addiction. Today he has a lovely family and is involved in their church in Toledo.



HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB, 24 TO 28 JUNE

Preparations are in hand for the Holiday Bible Club to be held this year in the local school, as we are expecting about 50 children and the church building is too small. This year we are looking at proofs for God's existence and His love and work in Christ Jesus

for this world. Each day we will search the Bible and history for proofs of this reality.

We ask you to pray that the children who attend will feel the need to know and receive Christ into their lives. Pray also for their families, that we may have the opportunity to preach to them about the gospel for salvation.

We are thankful to God for young people from the churches who will help this year.



EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

We are thankful to God that we can also hold the campaign from 12 to 20 July. Permits have been requested from the town halls; pray that there will be no obstacles and we can run the campaign freely without problems from the authorities.

This year the campaign thanksgiving service will be held in the park in Santa Cruz de Mudela. Pray that it will be a time of testimony and blessing for the whole town.

Pray also for the team, especially the young people; we are grateful for the effort they make each year to take part in the campaign through two weeks of hard work.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Pray for Juana that the Lord would continue to help and strengthen her. Pray for Paquita, whose health is getting worse; she gets distracted and increasingly depends on her children for everything. Ramón remains stable, thanks to the care given by his wife Sofi; pray for her too because she has less strength as she gets older.

Pray also for Fernando who is completing his first SEFOVAN session; he is very pleased with what he is learning. May the Lord help him to be prepared for service in the church.

Pray for Alfonso, whose illness of the nervous system is getting worse; his hearing is failing. His wife, Juani, continues to resist the gospel.

Praise the Lord, Germán and Eva remain faithful to the Lord and in serving the church. Germán has graduated from the SEFOVAN course and is very pleased. He still takes Fernando to the classes.

Pray too for Sara to remain faithful and that her husband David will see his need to commit himself to Christ. Pray for Samuel and Sofía that they will grow in the Lord.

Tainen, living in Viso del Marqués, continues to grow in her knowledge of the Lord. Having committed herself to the Lord, she is now encouraging her sister to read the Bible. We will visit every week as she is not often able to attend church; having no driving licence, she is unable to get to Santa Cruz.

FAMILY

We thank God for Jennifer who is graduating from secondary school. It's a real joy for us to see how she has progressed in her studies up to the present time. She continues with occupational and speech therapy. Her health is stable, with few outbreaks of lupus on her skin this year.

Please pray for our daughter Eli and her husband Efraín, who remain distant from the Lord and from us. This situation saddens us and drains our strength. Pray for our three granddaughters: Elena, Sofía and Alejandra. We have not yet been able to see Alejandra, the youngest.

We thank God for Pablo and his wife Noemí. We thank God that he now has a new job. Pray about their financial situation which has suffered from months without work. They are faithful to the Lord, encouraged in the church and helping with worship. We also thank God for our grandsons, Josué and Jared.

Chani's health has improved a bit, but she still has constant moderate pain that is not going away.

As ever, please pray that the Lord would give us encouragement, vision and wisdom in serving the church and preaching the gospel.

With love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sergio, Chani and Jennifer