



Pray for Spain

October/November 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



"Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Luke 17:17

The study of the ten lepers should be a constant reminder to us that, while many have great cause for thanksgiving, few have the heart to acknowledge it.

(from William MacDonald's Truths to Live by – One Day at a Time.)

My wife and I are so grateful for all your love and support for our ministry. Thank you very much for faithfully praying for us and the church in Moral.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS' HEALTH

Our sister Paula hardly leaves her house, and then only in a wheelchair. She is very weak and her husband Sebastián is also in poor health. Please pray that the Lord would work in them, and especially in Sebastián's heart so that he would submit to the Saviour. Alberto has had pacemaker surgery with a new battery and we thank God it all went well. His hearing and sight are failing, but he makes a great effort to attend services. Maribel and Ambrosio have little mobility. Ambrosio spends the day in his chair and Maribel uses a walker to get around the house; they are dependent on help. Marianny has been quite ill and in hospital overnight due to a stomach bug causing her much pain; with treatment her condition has improved, but not completely. We are grateful for your prayers for these members.

DISCIPLING

Discipling classes are starting again. Encarna will go through *New Life in Christ* with Marianny, and will also start the first level of this course with Any, a young lady attending church. Noemí will do the *Bible Introduction* course with Tere, Mari Nieves, Andrea and Yoli. I will resume the devotional, open to all members, on "Searching for spiritual renewal". Please pray that these sessions will bring forth maturity in each of those we are working with.

BIBLE ADVENTURE KIDSClub

Marianna has been working all summer with the group of children who attend the club. Thanks to the Lord, the group has grown and 8 to 10 children from the town attend. Please pray for them and for Marianna that the Lord would give her wisdom and strength to care for the children and share the gospel with them.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Thank you for praying; this was held from 25 to 28 June in the Agustín Sanz School. The theme was "Surviving the Jungle", focusing on how Jesus can help us through life's difficulties. We were blessed with 30 to 35 children attending over the four days. Please pray for the seed sown in the children who attended.

VIDAXTREMA EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

For 10 days in July we were spreading the gospel in Manzanares, Valdepeñas, Santa Cruz de Mudela, Torralba de Calatrava, Castellar de Santiago, Bolaños de Calatrava and Moral de Calatrava. We distributed



thousands of tracts on the streets and door to door, and this year we were able to give Bibles after sharing the gospel with those who wanted to take them. In general, attendance in the town squares was good (some better than others), and we presented the gospel simply and clearly. Please pray for the seed sown in these towns.

VISIT FROM PRISONERS (FROM ALCALÁ MECO, MADRID)

In May we had the visit from prison pastoral workers, together with nine prisoners. They shared praise songs that they sing in prison and testified to what God is doing in their lives; it had a big impact on the congregation. It is wonderful to see how God works in the lives of people who, without Him, would have no hope or joy in living a new life in Christ. Please pray for the prison ministry and the pastors carrying out prison visits.

SEFOVAN BIBLE TRAINING BY EXTENSION

We resumed the SEFOVAN Bible training course here on 14 September. We thank the Lord for the students we have this year; there are nine and three of them are new. Please pray for them that they will be supported to complete the training.

This year the Bible College asked me to be more involved so, God-willing, I will be teaching two classes in Ciudad Real, two in Las Palmas (Gran Canaria), one in Tenerife and one in Úbeda (Jaén). It's a privilege to serve in this Bible-training ministry, but also a big personal and formative challenge for my own life. Please pray that the Lord will help and enable me with the responsibility of teaching each subject correctly according to what God says in His word regarding each topic, and that He will not allow me to sow anything erroneous in the students' hearts and minds; should that happen, pray that the Holy Spirit would erase it from their minds.

PRAY FOR THE MISSION WORKERS AND THANKS FOR THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE VISIT

We workers were privileged to enjoy a visit from brothers and sisters from the UK, for the Spanish Experience. The week held many blessings. We were able to spend time together talking about the work the Lord is doing in each of the places where we are serving. We were able to pray together and enjoy Sunday worship together. We also enjoyed touristy outings to some towns and a day at the Ruidera Lakes. It was a really blessed time and we thank the Lord and those who made the effort to be here with us. Thank you, and may God bless you richly. We wait with open arms for the next visit.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY

Thanks to the Lord, our family is together again; although Natanael lives in Ciudad Real, we are within a 40 km radius. Since early July, Noemí has been in O Grove, Galicia, with her parents. Her father is very dependent on care due to his poor health and reduced mobility. Noemí was with them to help until 24 September when she returned to Moral.

We ask for prayer for our sons; firstly for their spiritual lives, that God would open their hearts so they return to the Saviour. Also for their working lives. Natanael is very happy working as a salesman, but another company has offered him the possibility of working with them, with better conditions; he needs to think about this, so please pray that God would guide him. Eric finished his training to be a fitter of solar panels, completing more courses than needed; he is now presenting CVs with a view to finding work. Please pray for him too.

Noemí is starting the last stage of her Psychology course. She still needs to complete one subject, work experience and the final degree project. She needs your prayers.

This year the Lord has opened a door for me that I wasn't expecting. I have been accepted by the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to study for a Master's Degree in Theological Studies, with 12 subjects online and in Spanish. I have made a start with just one subject per term, to establish a suitable pace. I'm very excited and am enjoying the studies. It's a privilege to be able to do this Master's, even though it means studying hard and involves finance. It is really worthwhile. Please pray for me to be able to meet all the goals ahead of me, with the Lord's help and grace.

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for your prayers. We need your help before the throne of grace. Without God, we are nothing. To Him alone be the glory!

With our love and gratitude in Christ,

José Luis Alfonso and Noemí García

SANTA CRUZ DE MUDELA

Sergio, Chani & Jennifer



May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17

May this prayer of Moses encourage and strengthen us. It is a privilege to be able to work in spreading the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ here in Castilla la Mancha. You also play an active part in this, knowing that the Lord's grace and peace cover and encourage us when we are passing through difficult times. We pray that the Lord would confirm the work of our hands here in Spain yours in the UK. We thank God and you for your prayers and support for the Lord's work in Spain and for us, His servants.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

We are very thankful to God for the Holiday Bible Club this summer. This was held in the local school as we were expecting about 50 children and the church premises are small; God surprised us again because 67 children attended during the five days. So it was a very busy time but also very blessed and joyful. We thank the Lord for the young people from the Valdepeñas church and from the UK who served as monitors. This work would not have been possible without your help.



Each day we were searching the Bible and history for proofs that God exists and for evidence of His love and work through Christ Jesus for this world. We ask you to pray that the children who attended may remember what they learned and please pray also for their families who had the opportunity to hear the gospel message for salvation.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

Working together with the young people, the VidaXtrema evangelistic campaign was held in various towns. Attendance was good with opportunities to preach the gospel, as we distributed tracts from house to house and talked with people personally.

Thank God in your prayers for the young people; we must give thanks for the effort they make each year to take part in the campaign over two weeks of hard work. Pray that the Lord would confirm and give fruit for the work of the many who helped.

The final thanksgiving service for the campaign was held in Santa Cruz de Mudela in the local park. It was a good time of testimony and praise and an opportunity to continue proclaiming the gospel in public.

VISITS

We thank God for the visit from brothers and sisters who came on the Spanish Experience. Some were with us for the Sunday service and the Mission workers were able to share a few days of fellowship with visits to various places in the region. We thank God for each of them as they always bring much blessing and encouragement to us and the church.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Please pray for our elderly members:

- On 22 July, our sister Paquita went to be with the Lord. Her farewell service was a time of testimony to Paquita's faith and her faithful witness throughout her life amongst us. Pray for her children that they would remember what their mother told them about the gospel and would turn to the Lord. We really miss her.
- That the Lord would continue to help and strengthen Juana.
- For Ramón who is getting weaker and also for Sofi whose strength is failing, but they remain encouraged in the Lord.
- For Fernando, who continues his SEFOVAN studies; that the Lord would help to prepare him to be able to work and serve more effectively in the church.
- For Alfonso; his health worsens, with poorer balance and increasing deafness. His wife Juani still resists the gospel.

Thank the Lord for Germán and Eva, who remain faithful to the Lord and serving in the church.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide David and draw him to Christ; for Sara to remain faithful in her life and witness; and for their children (Samuel and Sofía).

We thank God that Tainen has grown in faith and witnesses to her relatives since receiving Christ. She attends the service on Sundays together with her husband Emilio and her sister-in-law.



The Lord has blessed us by bringing several families into church:

- Alejandra, a Mexican lady, has come to live in the town and attends church when she doesn't have to travel to Madrid at the weekend.
- Manuel and Astrid from Colombia live in Viso del Marqués.



- Fernando and his wife Sara (from Colombia) live here in the town with their children Kevin, Kilian and Sara.

Pray for these families that the Lord would provide suitable jobs and homes so that they can continue to be with us, as they are an encouragement to the church.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

We continue our Sunday services and Thursday prayer meetings. Chani and Sara now have more children in Sunday School, for which we thank God.

Chani continues with the Thursday morning ladies' meeting here in Santa Cruz and has started a Bible Study group in Viso del Marqués with Astrid, Tainen and her sister on Monday mornings.

I am also discipling Manuel, Emilio and his friend Antonio on Wednesday evenings; Oscar (Tainen's brother-in-law) also wants to attend. Pray that this will be affirmed and, now that the Lord has opened a door into this town, that He will allow this project to go ahead so that a place of witness can be established there.

Also, on 5 September, we had the opportunity of introducing people to the church building, giving testimony and preaching the gospel; this was through the town council's programme of guided visits to significant buildings in the town, which included the Santa Cruz Evangelical Church. Two groups came; the first group were children – about 20 with various relatives accompanying them. The second group of about 50 people were able to listen to the gospel and learn more about the church's witness.

FAMILY

We give thanks to God for Jennifer who has started studying in Ciudad Real (about 47 miles from home), for specific vocational training in commerce. It is a real joy for us to see how she has progressed in her studies up to this point. She continues with her occupational and speech therapy.

Please pray for our daughter Eli and her husband Efraín, who are still far from the Lord and ourselves. This situation continues to sadden us and saps our strength. Please pray for our three grandchildren, Elena, Sofía and Alejandra; the youngest is now one and we have still not been able to see her.

We thank God for Pablo and his wife Noemí, who are still faithful to the Lord and involved with worship in their church. We are also thankful for our grandsons Josué and Jared.

As always, please pray that the Lord would give us strength and courage to cope with this situation, and vision and wisdom in serving the church.

With love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sergio, Chani and Jennifer

Prayer meetings are normally held at 7:15 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month on Zoom. Next meeting: 25 October. Contact UK Secretaries for details:

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