



March 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are very enthusiastic over what God is doing in our midst, both in our family with Teo and within the church.

On January 30, we celebrated Teo's first birthday at church. (If you follow us on social media, you can see the photos.) The church service was full and afterwards we cooked a paella for more than 40 people. Alba had invited 5 unbelieving families and they all came. We had a great time for kids after the meal.

Between January and April, the church is full of foreign visitors practically every Sunday, to the point that we have had to buy 24 new chairs. In those months, the sermon is translated into English, as is normal, but also into Dutch. This would be impossible without the help from our beloved friend Jack Vanderveen.

If you recall our last prayer letter, we mentioned all the people that had recently been coming to the church. All of them continue to attend the church, and the majority also attend other meetings. This is why we have begun a discipleship program with the goal that they understand the doctrines of the church and can be baptized. (Our church does not recognize baptisms from the Catholic church.)

As we mentioned in the most recent letter, we created a Consultative Committee (i.e. diaconal) and in our most recent church annual assembly (3rd March), the pastor proposed Ryan Hammond as a candidate elder. The church unanimously accepted the proposal, so the Almuñécar church now has two elders: Manuel López Franco and Ryan Hammond. After one year, Ryan will be ratified and ordained as an elder.

Isaac Berrocal, Stephen Nellie and David – the latter two, delegates from the RPCI Mission Board – were with us from Friday 21st Feb until Monday 25th Feb. The purposes were to look for housing for the Berrocal family, meet the local church in Almuñécar, get to know Nerja (where Isaac will plant a new church, God willing), and to evaluate the standard of living in Nerja. After viewing several properties in Nerja and their prices, the delegates chose to look in Almuñécar. We thank God that, at the last moment, they were able to find a home that would meet the needs of the Berrocal family in Almuñécar. Apparently, all practical issues are now solved, and we now await the ceremony where Isaac will be officially sent to Spain, which will take place on 12th June in Northern Ireland.

The women's meetings continue to be a great blessing and attendance has not diminished, but we have had to stop hosting them at the home of Teresa, who recently fractured her leg and then lost her husband. We are now holding the meetings in the church building, with the hope that our sister would recuperate soon.

The local church, along with Phil Dunn (EMF Representative from Northern Ireland) and our beloved friend David Burke, have arranged for an EMF "Go Europe Team" of young adults to come to Almuñécar to work with us in evangelism this summer.

Prayer List:

- For new contacts and for people who are attending regularly – for their conversion and for those that have recently started in our discipleship program
- That the women's meeting will be helpful in evangelizing additional women

- For Ryan Hammond and his family, that for the time they are with us Ryan would be a blessing to the church and a help to our pastor
- For Isaac and his family, that they would adapt well here and for his future ministry
- For Phil, David, and the EMF Go Europe Team that will come to evangelize with us
- For the sick in the congregation: Teresa (recovering from a leg fracture and recent death of her husband), Julia (suffering the effects of Alzheimer's)
- For decent work and salaries for the families in the congregation
- For the pastoral family (Manuel, Alba, and Teo)

Yours in His grace,

Manuel and Alba López Franco



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