



**Manuel López Franco and Alba Ortega González
(Manuel & Alba López Franco)**

January 2021

“Thus far the Lord has helped us” 1 Samuel 7:12

Dear Friends,

You will surely agree with us that the year 2020 that we have finished, has been rare and complicated in different ways, but still, when we look back, we have only cause for gratitude to the Lord and His people.

Teo still goes happily to kindergarten to play with his friends, although all other activities he did are cancelled by the Corona. Regarding Manuel's health, after several visits to doctors and specialists, the diagnosis has been that he suffers from asthma and chronic sinusitis. With the medication he was prescribed he is much better and has not suffered any more respiratory crises. Alba is well, although she misses her family, whom she has not been able to see for months (all Christmas plans had to be cancelled). Her daughter Maya also had to remain in quarantine because of Corona but thank God it was mild and she did not suffer any symptoms.

We have greatly missed the large group of Dutch brothers who visit us at the beginning of the year, as well as other brothers and friends from European countries who regularly visit us throughout the year.

Something that has caused us much sadness is that we do not have teams of young people for evangelism in the summer outreach. In recent years we have even had two different teams on different dates and both the local authorities and the people of Almuñécar already know us, and in some cases are waiting for us.

We also started a distribution of New Testaments of the Gideons in the High Schools and Schools, which unfortunately we could not finish, although we hope to take it up again as soon as we can. However, we were able to distribute a New Testament to each family that came to collect food at Christmas. Similarly, to our contacts, we distributed evangelistic calendars as we usually do every Christmas.

Thank God the radio project has continued to run its programmes and we were able to focus the contents trying to transmit the hope that is in Christ and the Gospel.

At the beginning of the pandemic we were forced to cancel the public meetings for a period of more than two months, but from June we were able to keep the premises open with all the meetings until today: prayer meetings, ladies meetings, Sunday School and Sunday Service. We were not sure how many brothers and sisters would attend, but to our surprise, most still attend church regularly. The truth is that during the lockdown, it helped the church to record a daily devotional based in J.C. Ryle meditations on the Gospels, which at the time was very well received and appreciated by all and not only members, but family, friends and contacts, and we think that this situation helped to strengthen our small congregation.

Although we have had one family affected by Corona, it was mild, and they are fully recovered. Thank God we have not had any more cases within our congregation.

Surprisingly, in the midst of this situation, we have three new people visiting us: Loli, the mother of one of our members; Ulysses, a young man who is chronically ill and is seeking the Lord; and Maria Jose, a friend of a church sister. We are grateful to see the Lord answering our prayers and seeing new people coming to the congregation.

As you know from other letters, we have talked about other families who were thinking of moving and joining the church in Almuñécar, but the pandemic has changed all the plans and everything has been suspended for the time being.

We consider it a blessing and privilege to have been able to help with food for some of the families in need here in Almuñécar. We initially sought the help of the Granada Food Bank. When it was refused because of the bureaucratic obstacles imposed by the Catholic NGO that monopolises this type of help in the town, we continued to pray and God opened the hearts of a church in Sweden and of the Dutch brothers and sisters who also support us with half of the rent and some private offerings. With the current budget we have, we can spend 40 euros per month on basic products and food per family for 6 months. This project, in our Roman Catholic context, is seen by the people as a good thing and gives the church a good reputation. Doing all the shopping in a small local supermarket opens doors for new and good contacts.

PLEASE, PRAY FOR:

The pastoral family, to continue encouraged in the work, healthy and for the conversion of Maya.

- For the economy of the church, since the lack of the brothers from other countries who usually visit us each year has been noted in our annual budget.
- For new evangelistic opportunities and for families who have received New Testaments and calendars. Please continue to pray for the radio project and programmes.
- Pray that the Lord will bring new people and families to the church and especially for those who are already visiting us: Loli, Ulysses and Maria Jose.
- For the families who were planning to come to our congregation, may the Lord guide them in their decision making.
- Please pray for the 23 families who receive food twice a month, that they may know the Lord and He may supply them in their deepest need, that of salvation.

Manuel, Alba and Teo



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