



Manuel López and Alba Ortega

February 2023

Dear Friends,

We have finished 2022 and started this new year with new exciting projects and we are very much looking forward to what God has prepared for us in 2023, the 20th anniversary of the work here in Almuñécar.

Teo has also experienced important changes, as he left the English academy and started in a public school in December, in a small town called Maro, which we consider the best option for him, as it is a multicultural school, where he has friends who speak English and where the parents are very involved in activities with the children. On the other hand, a week ago we celebrated Teo's birthday and as every year, we took the opportunity to evangelise. New testaments were distributed among the visitors, we shared our faith publicly and met some of the parents of Teo's new schoolmates. Already the fact that they came into the church where we celebrated the birthday is a big step.

Regarding Makena, the young girl from California, she has moved in with a friend of ours who has two teenage daughters and lives in Torrevieja. We believe that spiritually it will be much better for her, as both girls are believers and attend a church with a good group of young people where Makena has already integrated.

This year we have resumed regular men's meetings every Monday, where Manuel is studying the Westminster catechism. Among the men who attend, there were two candidates to train them theologically and help them with preaching and homiletics, but only one of them is really interested and in whom Manuel is investing more.

On the other hand, two years ago, a couple who came sporadically to the church asked us for help with their marriage. Neither of them were converts, but we invested our time with them when they asked for it. After some time without hearing from them, we found that they had settled their differences, although they did not attend church. Last year, another couple with problems, who had also visited us on occasion, contacted us because they were recommended by the first couple. We continue to work with them, because the situation is difficult, but to our surprise, all four now attend worship regularly on Sundays and the women are very faithful in attending the women's meetings, although none of the four have yet been converted.

We also have to add in answer to prayer that we see the Lord bringing the church to another level of commitment and bringing back people who have been estranged for some time.

Surprisingly, we have had a full church every Sunday for several months now. Truth be told, half of them are visitors or people who are living here seasonally and attend regularly. But apart from the

church and the visitors, the Dutch groups are here again and for the next Sunday, 12th February, we have already been told that 40 people will be coming, which is a problem of space. We have the strong conviction that in order to continue to grow, we need bigger premises. Even the children's school has become too small. We see that just like a plant, we need to change pots to keep growing, so as a church we are continuing with our project to buy the premises to cover our needs.

As the first activity for this 20th anniversary of the church, in January, we had the Spanish Reformed Ministers Fellowship (AMRE) here, where there were nine churches represented and a good number of pastors. The preacher was Gareth Burke, who preached on Sunday in the church and three messages during the week to the pastors and church members who attended. His ministry was a great blessing to all.

For this year we have scheduled at least three evangelistic activities where we will receive groups from Northern Ireland: two groups will come from the congregation of Richhill Presbyterian Church, and another from Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For doors to open in the school and among the parents of Teo's new classmates to share the gospel and see fruit.
- For Luciano, our deacon, who is taking steps to take on more responsibility, that the Lord may enable him.
- For us to be able to finish the paperwork for the Cultural Association.
- For the two couples who are visiting us: Henning and Ana and their two children; and especially for Alexandra and Piotr, that there may be a true conversion and reconciliation in the couple, that their children may also see the power of God working in the lives of their parents.
- For people who are attending more recently, like Alfonso, that the Lord will renew their understanding.
- For the new premises for the church, that we will find the right one and that the Lord will supply what we need to carry out the purchase; and for all the people who will be involved in the arrangements we will have to do.
- For the new projects we are working on, to come to light and like Pilates, may they be a great blessing.
- For the groups that will be coming to do evangelism activities with us. That the Lord will give us wisdom to plan the right activities so that we can also reach out to young people and families.



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