



# The Olive Tree

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALEMÁN FAMILY

*But I am like an olive tree  
flourishing in the house of  
God; I trust in God's  
unfailing love for ever  
and ever. Ps. 52:8*

Seville, SPAIN

December, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

We send you greetings from Seville as we joyfully reflect on Galatians chapter 4 – “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...*”. As we consider God’s faithfulness in fulfilling His promised provision of the Savior, we respond with glad hearts and love toward the One who redeemed us from the consequence of our sin “*so that we may receive adoption as sons*” (Gal. 4:4-5).

### Seville Assembly Growing

After a summer of helping our sons in the States, our return to Spain at the end of September went smoothly, and we were glad to get settled back at home. With glad hearts we have been meeting with our home assembly and resuming the ways we serve among the brethren. Manuel started **preaching** a series on the gospel according to John, which we pray may edify the saints to grow in a closer loving relationship with our heavenly Father.

The church continues to grow in number as the Lord draws people to our meetings. A couple of **elderly Christian sisters** joined our church meetings when the son of one of them encouraged his mother to attend. A **former inmate** also has attended after having studied the Bible correspondence courses while in prison, and a couple of Nicaraguan women meet with us on Sunday mornings as their work schedules allow.

Recently a **high school friend** of one of our teens has also been joining our Sunday meetings. Her parents are not opposed to their daughter attending, so we thank the Lord for her **open disposition to the Gospel** as she observes her friend boldly living for Christ and as she witnesses the church remembering Christ each Sunday: “*For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes*” (1 Cor. 11:26).



Manuel preaching Sunday morning

In the photo showing our Sunday meeting, you will notice that some of our brothers and sisters in Christ **connect by videoconference** since they live far away and lack Bible-teaching churches in their locations.

Our heavenly Father has been blessing our assembly as we experience **affectionate fellowship** shared among the saints through a common love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We look forward to meeting together each Lord’s Day to worship our Savior, receive teaching from God’s Word and praise Him through song and prayer.

Recently we rejoiced together as 17-year-old **Lucía** shared her testimony and expressed her desire to **obey the Lord in baptism**. Her heartfelt account of her faith in Christ in response to the Gospel brought joy to each of us who witnessed her baptism. It also stimulated conversation and reflection for several in our congregation who have not yet made a public profession of their faith in Christ.



José Luis  
baptized his  
daughter,  
Lucía.

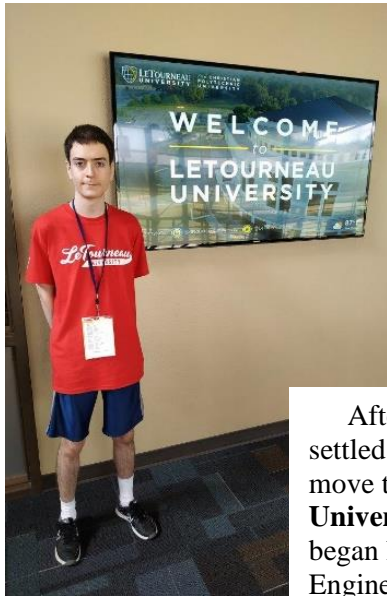
As now empty-nesters, we are more free to invest our lives in **outreach** to others. For instance, we have been travelling to the town of Santa Olalla on Thursdays to support our **deaf brother, Manolo**, as we are working with him to help him grow in his knowledge of God’s Word. Another purpose for these visits includes seeing Manolo’s cousin, **Jesule**, who also joins us for coffee and sharing together Bible passages which have caught our attention during our daily Bible readings.

We would like to incorporate more **regular visitation** to other brothers and sisters in Christ as part of our outreach as the Lord provides time, energy, and freedom of movement without Covid restrictions. We pray that the time we invest in others will **help strengthen the church**, bringing fruit in each life, for God’s glory.

## Family Transitions and Relocations

After over five months in the United States from mid-April to the end of September, our hearts are filled with gratitude toward God for all that He allowed us to accomplish during our trip. We recognize His provision in so many ways, and through so many of His people.

Indeed, we have much to be thankful for, as the Lord allowed us to travel to the U.S. amid travel restrictions, in time to quarantine for two weeks in New Jersey at CMML and then fly to Tennessee to joyfully attend **Tomás's graduation from Bryan College**. Subsequently we spent five weeks in Oregon where we visited our commending assembly and Tracy's family, and made preparations to help Tomás and Lucas relocate to their respective work and study locations.



In July we helped **Tomás** move his belongings from Tennessee to Little Rock, Arkansas where he started his **employment** with the FDIC, and where he also began studying an **online MBA** through Bryan College.

After helping Tomás get settled in, we then helped **Lucas** move to the **LeTourneau University** campus where he began his studies in Computer Engineering in August.

During our time in the southern states, we enjoyed several special visits with families and assemblies as we travelled West as far as Flagstaff, AZ, and then East as far as Raleigh, NC. We thank the Lord for His provision in so many ways, including safe travels and good times of fellowship. One of those **special visits** was with a couple who met Manuel on a train in Spain over 20 years ago, and who have been supporting our missionary work here ever since. We have so many reasons to thank the Lord for all the ways He intervened in our family's transitions over the summer, and we are **humbled by His goodness**.

## Gospel Outreach

We rejoice in the opportunities the Lord is providing for us to share the Gospel on a personal basis, and we covet your prayer accordingly that our loving heavenly Father would draw these people to Himself to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Just this week Manuel was able to address a biblical question raised by **Angelita**, a contact of our sister Isabel. Angelita spent decades with the JW's, but recently left the organization when the Lord dawned on her the reality of the Trinity. She turned to the Catholic church where she received no personal response to her search for a personal relationship with God. When Manuel was able to address her doubts, this woman profusely expressed her gratitude not only for his bothering to answer, but also for his giving a biblical response that she could see and understand from Scripture. Consequently, she plans to study the Bible correspondence courses as she seeks to know God and His Word.

### Please Join Us in Prayer:

- That our love for Christ would grow each day.
- That God would protect our local assembly, and nurture our unity in Christ.
- For hearts of the unsaved to be open to the Gospel.
- That God would grant us wisdom as we share the Gospel with the people He has placed in our lives.
- For health to be able to effectively carry out the good works that God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- For relief and resolution of Manuel's reflux problem.
- For **Tomás and Lucas**, in their work and studies, and for Christian fellowship.

We earnestly thank you for upholding us in prayer. We trust and pray that in this New Year *"the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7)

**In His love,  
Manuel & Tracy**

