



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

November, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

We recognize before the Lord the privilege we have to write you today to share about the ways He is allowing us to serve Him in Spain, and that consequently you can participate in our service through informed prayer.

Although some of you have heard from us more regularly when we've responded to those who have sent economic support through CMLL, we admit that it has been a *long* time since we last sent our Olive Tree newsletter. Several factors have caused us to prioritize other matters, and we want to apologize for our lack of communications, as well as convey our thanks to those who have contacted us or continued praying for us during this period.

Family Matters

Most recently we have been preoccupied since early this year with the **health of our son, Lucas**, whose condition of unrelenting tiredness worsened, leading to our decision to bring him home for the summer to get medical attention. Since May, Lucas has seen many doctors and has undergone several tests. Our efforts to control for detected food intolerances have not brought significant improvement, so we are pursuing his symptom of excessive thirst with an endocrinologist, who has ordered a special test for November 15th. We pray that an **accurate diagnosis** and treatment can lead to improved health, and allow Lucas to return to his interrupted studies at LeTourneau University, Lord willing.

We also pray for **Tomás during this busy time** of his life as he travels for work, and as he studies in preparation for a huge exam in April encompassing all the procedures and information related to his work as a bank examiner. He needs to pass this exam to be commissioned for long-term employment with the FDIC. Pray that this stressful period would result in blessing and reliance upon the Lord.

God remains faithful as He continues to extend his loving care toward us. **May He accomplish His purposes in each of our lives** as we seek to simply trust our heavenly Father in every aspect of our lives.

Meetings in California

At the beginning of June, Manuel had the privilege of speaking at the Christian Missionary Service **Bay Area Missions Conference** of the assemblies. "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you,*" from James 4:8 established the focal point of the conference. This theme

enabled Manuel to emphasize the profound importance of seeking an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father in Christ by the Spirit.

During his weekend in California, the Dillon family hosted Manuel, during which time he had the opportunity to converse with Pedro about their work together on the periodic evangelistic publication, *La Voz*.

Investing in Individuals

Although we recognize many that different means of communicating the Gospel make an impact on people's lives, we have considered the need to invest time in individuals as we reach out to Spaniards. It becomes evident that filled schedules can prevent us from dedicating necessary time and effort to the individuals God has placed in our lives, either for **presenting the Gospel**, or for sharing times of **fellowship** around God's Word. Consequently, we have been endeavoring to adjust priorities to focus our attention on these individuals.

One of these individuals is our sister in Christ, **Isabel**, who continues to feel alone as she steadfastly shares her faith in Christ with the people in her town. She told us: "People don't want to listen. 11,000 people live here, but **I have not found one Christian**. People don't want to listen when I talk about Jesus." Isabel faces opposition from some who speak derogatory remarks against her, as they persist in their devotion to local traditional witchcraft. Even though her Christian fellowship is limited due to living in a remote town, she remains strong in her faith as she unashamedly shares the Gospel there. Please join us in prayer for her health as she recently decided to stop receiving preventive treatment for her cancer not to return.



Teffts joined us to visit Isabel

In July we had the joy of receiving our good friends, **the Teffts**, who visited us in Seville. We enjoyed showing them part of the service we are involved in, including a couple of road-trips to **visit the saints in remote towns**.

When we visited **Isabel** in Huétor, she enjoyed hearing from them how the Lord has worked in their lives. That same afternoon, we visited **Puri** who lives in a small, secluded neighborhood about 10 minutes away. She had invited us all over for coffee and cake. Both of these sisters in the Lord were delighted to receive our visit along with the Teffts, as they rarely have opportunity for in-person Christian fellowship.

In addition to occasionally visiting Isabel who lives over two hours away from us, we also share weekly fellowship with **Manolo**, his cousin, **Jesule**, and **José** in their small mountain town, Santa Olalla. Currently we are working through another Emmaus course, which leads to good discussion times. Part of our focus includes strengthening sign language vocabulary and expression for Manolo to grow in his understanding of God's Word.



Mid-week meeting at Manolo's home. Occasionally José's wife, Inma, joins us.

Some time ago José had commented that it was becoming **more difficult for him to read** his small-text Bible. We noticed that Jesule also was straining to see his text. They were both elated when we surprised them with **large-print Bibles**, and both men notably experience less difficulty reading in our mid-week meetings and sharing Bible texts as we gather to remember the Lord each Sunday. What joy to have helped them in this small way!

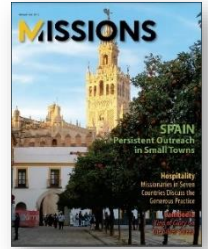
There are several other individuals who we are reaching out to in various ways, and we pray to the Lord that their hearts would be drawn toward Him.

Literature Ministry

One long-term portion of our service in Spain continues to include literature, although now to a smaller extent. Manuel continues to review *La Voz* before it goes to print. Also, he has an occasional role in reviewing the Spanish Emmaus **Bible correspondence courses**. In the meantime, Tracy has diminished her involvement significantly with *Caminemos Juntas* after working through the transition from print to the all-digital web version of the Christian women's magazine. This transition became necessary as rising production and postal costs made the print version no longer feasible. Although the new web version is reaching a wider audience, regrettably we are no longer able to serve the women in remote villages in the Spanish-speaking world with a print version of the magazine.

Links to CMML Ministry Reports

During the period when we did not send out our *Olive Tree* newsletter, CMML published an article we wrote about our service in Spain in their monthly publication, *Missions magazine*. We also thank the CMML office staff for recording, editing, and publishing a video about our ministry in their *Monthly Missions Update* video series. Both the article and video are available on the CMML website, which you can access through the following links:



- Article in **November 2022** Missions magazine: <https://www.cmml.us/magazine/archive>
- Video published in **February 2022** <https://www.cmml.us/video/manuel-tracy-aleman-spain>

Baptism of Rosa María

At the end of September, we had the joy of witnessing the baptism of Rosa María. She had been reading the Bible for several years with her sister who is a member of our assembly, and she received the Lord Jesus as her Savior soon after she began reading the Bible. In response to prayer on her behalf, the Lord worked in her circumstances earlier this year so that she could begin meeting with us each Lord's Day. Her first visit was a joyful occasion, as well as her recent baptism. Our hearts are full of gratitude to the Lord for those visitors who heard Rosa María's testimony and a presentation of the Gospel. Since then, another one of her sisters continues to attend each Sunday, eager to learn more.



Baptism of Rosa María

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

With thanks for your fellowship in the Gospel,
Manuel & Tracy

