



# 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, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,

As we consider the unwavering faithfulness and love of God, we are compelled to return thanks to Him not only in this holiday season, but every day. He is certainly worthy of our admiration and praise.

Here we share with you how the Lord has cared for our family over the last year.

## Adjusted Ministry

Since our last newsletter we sent out a year ago, we have continued serving the Lord in several areas, although we found it necessary to limit some ministry involvement while we were earnestly seeking answers and resolution for the fatigue that has been debilitating our son, Lucas. We thank those of you who were aware of his condition and have been praying for his improvement.

During this period, Manuel continued in his teaching ministry in our local assembly, working through the Gospel according to John, with the goal of helping the saints to gain a deeper understanding about God the Son, and a closer fellowship with Him as we exercise trust in Him.

We also continued our weekly trips to the small town of Santa Olalla to meet with our three brothers in Christ there, to fellowship with them and encourage them in the unique challenges each of them face. We worked through some Emmaus courses to help them grow in their understanding of important biblical truths.

Also, during our family "medical year", Tracy minimized her involvement in the women's magazine and other areas of service to devote her time to Lucas's needs. The Lord provided, however, for her to continue her weekly visits with Gloria, our elderly sister in Christ, to help her with technology and other practical needs, and to enjoy fellowship together.

## Travels and Transitions

We thank the Lord that after more than a year of doctor visits and medical tests, we now have some direction to help Lucas navigate his tiredness.

As he returned to his interrupted studies this fall, we were convinced that we needed to provide closer support

to him for a time until he regains strength. Therefore, when he resumed his studies at LeTourneau University in Texas, we remained in town to continue helping him as he transitioned back to life on campus after his year of absence.

## Late Summer and Fall

Before we took Lucas back to college, in late summer we were glad for the opportunity to travel to Oregon to visit family, friends, and our commending assembly, Westside Bible Fellowship. We were blessed to enjoy several encouraging visits with our brothers and sisters in Christ during our limited time there.

In August we traveled to Texas and helped Lucas move back to campus. Shortly afterward we helped Tomás pack his belongings, load a U-Haul truck, and move from Little Rock, AR to Franklin, TN where he relocated to the Nashville office of the FDIC. There he is happily, yet busily employed, and is glad to be back in Tennessee where he has college friends to fellowship with.



We thank the Lord for His provision in the lives of both of our children, and we look to Him to continue caring for them and drawing their hearts closer to Himself.

During September and October, God blessed both of us during several visits to fellowship with the saints and to come together to remember our wonderful Savior. We are grateful for the hospitality and fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ of the Knoxville Assembly, Three Oaks Bible Chapel, and Central Bible Chapel. Each visit will occupy a special place in our hearts and memories as we remember the bond of fellowship we enjoyed.

With joy we thank the Lord that He allowed us to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Central Bible Chapel commemorating God's faithfulness in nurturing the work of the Gospel and

## Central Bible Chapel 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



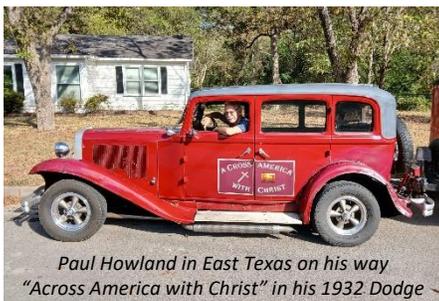
Manolo ecstatic to receive a large-print version of the Emmaus course that fellow missionary Gil Vargas printed for him.

founding the assembly now residing on Main Street in Millbrook, AL. The messages shared and inspiring history of CBC can be accessed on their web page:

<http://www.centralbiblechapel.com/>. May our faithful heavenly Father continue to bring fruit of salvation and open hearts to the ongoing efforts to reach their community with the Gospel.

Subsequently back in Texas we had an unanticipated encounter in the parking lot of Walmart. As we were leaving with groceries, we drove by a parked vehicle that caught our attention, a 1932 Dodge with the driver inside, brother Paul Howland, fellow missionary to France. He was on a trip "Across America with Christ".

To make a long story short, after inviting him over for lunch, we learned of his evangelistic outreach through his travels, and helped



Paul Howland in East Texas on his way "Across America with Christ" in his 1932 Dodge

him connect with the assembly in town to partner with him in reaching out with the Gospel at a local car show the following weekend.

You can read brother Paul's story: [www.ACACHrist.wordpress.com](http://www.ACACHrist.wordpress.com)

At the beginning of November, Manuel returned to Spain to continue in the work there, but Tracy remained in Texas to help Lucas in various ways until the end of the semester.

During her time in Longview, Tracy was able to contribute to two local projects, creating a simple web page for the assembly, and helping in a small way with some data conversion for a local ministry.



Tracy was also glad for the opportunity to meet up with a couple of dear college friends, Cheryl and Maria, this fall in Springfield, MO. They enjoyed bringing back memories shared together at university as well as encouraging each other in the Lord.

Back home in Seville, Manuel resumed his teaching from the Gospel of John, and also returned to meeting weekly with the brothers in Santa Olalla. We are thankful for a couple of brothers from the assembly who stepped in to make the weekly trip in our absence. They both have learned some sign language, so they were able to sign for

our deaf brother during these weekly meetings. We are glad that these brothers want to continue participating in this mid-week meeting, which is a great encouragement to José, Jesule and Manolo who have no other Christian fellowship in their town.



### Home for Christmas

Our family has enjoyed being together in Spain over Christmas break where Lucas has accessed some medical follow-up regarding his condition, and Tomás has also joined us. During Christmas week we were glad to host Manuel's sister and her two sons in our home. We ask the Lord to open their hearts to Him.

In addition to reaching out to relatives with the Gospel, we also are enjoying times of fellowship with the saints of our assembly. Please join us in prayer that our family's time together in Spain would be spiritually profitable, and that the Lord would be honored in our lives.

### Additional Prayer Topics

- Relief for Lucas in the tiredness he still experiences
- Safe travels for Tomás, Lucas and Tracy back to the States on January 9<sup>th</sup>, and for Lucas as he returns to his studies
- Healing for Manuel's knees (pain making it difficult to navigate the staircase in our house)
- God's protection for Manuel as he makes some repairs in our house, and as he travels each week to meet with the brothers in Santa Olalla.

As always, we thank the Lord for your interest and participation in our work in Spain.

### Looking to our Lord Jesus Christ, Manuel & Tracy

