

Bill & Therese Williams

November - December 2023

Feliz Navidad!

to all of our faithful supporting churches, friends, and family!

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TO ALL!



Pastor Valentin
Lucaci

The holiday season is upon us. Thanksgiving is in the past; the celebration of our Lord's birth is right around the corner; and we are closing out the year of our Lord 2023! Here in Palencia, Spain, we are especially grateful to celebrate the Lord's multiple blessings this past year. January 15th we celebrated the transition of the pastorate to the national **pastor Valentin Lucaci**. The church is flourishing under Pastor Valentin; souls have been saved, two baptismal services were celebrated, the average attendance has increased by 15 people; and including the baptisms, 15 more people have become members; there was a record attendance on the 8th anniversary of the church last September of 76 souls; as well as a record number of campers from our church at our camps this past summer. But the Lord has brought one more blessing, or I should say two more blessings upon the Faith Baptist Church of Palencia this past year, of which I will take the rest of this prayer letter to explain.

TWO MISSION WORKS OUT OF THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

The last half of this year our church has been privileged to be recipients of the blessings of the Lord in the starting of two mission works out of our church. First of all, we mentioned in our last prayer letter that the **Raul Sinti family** from Peru (sent from the church of Missionary Max Harmon) has joined with the FBC so that we might become their Spanish-sponsoring church. They have started a Baptist mission in the city of Santander in Northern Spain with a population of approximately 172,000. There is one other Union Baptist church in the city, and a few charismatic evangelical churches. Pastor Raul and family are presently holding services in their small apartment with two other families but are looking for a storefront building to rent.

The other mission work that is in progress is in a much smaller town, Aguilar de Campoo, one hour to the North of Palencia, population approximately 8,000. But Aguilar de Campoo has the notorious distinction of being one of the multitude of small cities in Spain that has NOT ONE Gospel preaching church, much less Baptist. Of course, the (so called) Jehovah's Witnesses have a work there. But let me tell you how the Lord is opening up this city for the Gospel.

The last of November, I received a call from a young woman, Jasmine, who was wanting to know the schedule of our services so that she and her family could attend. The following Sunday, Jasmine, her husband Jon, and two small children drove one hour from Aguilar de Campoo along with her sister, her husband and two children as well as the mother of the two sisters. They had come from a Baptist church in Columbia, and were shocked to find out that there was absolutely NO Gospel witness in the city where they had moved to in Spain. Since the first of November, they have attended every Sunday driving the one hour trip back and forth. So our church decided we would try to start a mission in Aguilar, and Therese and I were going to make the effort to drive up twice a week. Nevertheless, two days after feeling that Macedonian call from the Lord, a young man called me on my cell phone to also ask about our services. He informed me that he was an ordained Baptist pastor recently arrived from Cuba and living in.... guess where! You're right! In Aguilar de Campoo! Definitely NOT a coincidence! Is the Lord still working to spread the Gospel in these last days or not? He had just moved in the month before, and as well was shocked to find out there was NO Gospel witness in the city! **Pastor Miguel Jiménez** and his wife will become members of our church this Sunday and will be working with us to start a mission in Aguilar. Every Sunday we drive our old church van up to bring back 10 to 15 people from Aguilar and Therese and I are making the trip every Wednesday night to hold a Bible study in Jasmine's apartment. We ask for your prayers that within a month or two we might be able to find a small building to rent in Aguilar so that we might start the first Gospel-preaching church in Aguilar de Campoo!



Pastor Miguel
Jiménez y family

Thank you for your faithful support of our family and ministry! For without your faithfulness these two new Baptist mission works would not have been possible. May you all have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!



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Pastor Raúl
Sinti

Bill & Therese