

Bill & Therese Williams

October - November 2018

Feliz Navidad!

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

GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS!

Thanksgiving day is now past history, but we should give thanks for everything, every day of the year (1 Thess. 5:18)! Therese and I are so thankful to the Lord for so many blessings He has given us over the years. These past few months are no exception to the multitude of blessings He has showered upon us, but blessings come disguised in many ways of which this world might call cursings. Let me explain in the next few paragraphs.

BLESSINGS OF THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALENCIA

Just yesterday, Sunday the 25th of November, our church in Palencia celebrated a new record attendance of 53, with eight first-time visitors present! The previous record of 47 was set last September at our third anniversary!

A harmonious, loving spirit permeates the church, as well as a fervor for service to the Lord! We celebrated another baptism in the river nearby. Noemi has been saved for nine years, but did not want to get baptized in any of the Evangelical churches she had attended until she found our Baptist church which was doctrinally very similar to the church of her youth in Peru. There are two more adult ladies waiting to be baptized, Pilar and Cleo.



As the Senior pastor of the church, I am especially blessed with the number and quality of our faithful men, beginning with the associate pastor, my "Timothy," Valentin Lucaci. He preaches almost every other Sunday, and is fully immersed in almost every ministry of the church. He still needs training and experience before we will feel fully comfortable stepping aside and turning the church over to his leadership, but we already have many faithful men who are serving in many ministries in the church and are fully supportive of their pastors.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

I mentioned earlier in this letter about blessings in disguise. This past September we received news from our family that admittedly did not seem to be what would initially be viewed as a blessing. Our older daughter, Jennifer, was diagnosed with a very aggressive, stage 3, breast cancer which had spread into her lymph nodes as well as possibly to one ovary. The tumor had doubled in size in a little over a month after discovery. Of course, Therese and I were at first very distressed, and our first instinct was to fly back to Florida to the side of our first-born. Nevertheless, our trust in the Lord prevailed and instead sent us to our knees. So, you might ask, how is cancer a blessing? Surely it would be considered a curse! Do we truly believe Romans 8:28, or is it just a nice verse to use when things are obviously working out in our favor? Our church family gathered at the altar in intercessory prayer for us and our daughter (see the pic); and after Jennifer's first chemotherapy treatment, the tumor, which was about two inches in diameter, had simply disappeared. The oncologist was totally shocked and admitted that it was not a normal occurrence. Of course, we born-again believers know it is God's miraculous healing. **Praise the Lord!** Nevertheless, there are many other blessings due to this cancer, especially that of the spiritual blessings of Jennifer and many others who have drawn closer to the Lord through all of this upheaval. Our daughter's testimony has amazed us! **To God be the glory! We would appreciate your prayers for Jennifer as she continues to receive treatment.**

Thank you for your faithful support of our family and ministry!



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Serving Christ together,

Bill + Therese