

Bill & Therese Williams

January - February 2022



FURLOUGH NEWS

At the time of this correspondence, Therese and I have traveled 14,000 miles across 18 states and have visited 26 churches on this our 10th furlough in our 35 years as missionaries. Such extensive traveling, hotel to hotel, restaurant to restaurant, the lack of a stable environment, etc. has been hard on our bodies. Right after Christmas, Bill spent four hours in an urgent care clinic for a stomach bacterial infection, and the first of February Therese was taken to the emergency room in an ambulance for an angina attack and had to spend a day in the hospital for tests. Nevertheless, we have both recuperated and are so thankful that the Lord has protected us from COVID.

We are immensely grateful to our supporting churches which we have visited. We have been treated like visiting royalty and have been greatly encouraged as we have tried to encourage our brethren in the fulfilling of the Great Commission in the midst of such troublesome times. We are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

Furlough is slowly drawing to a close. We have five more churches to visit, and all are missions' conferences. We have tickets to return home to Spain on the 20th of April. **Pray for us as we travel another approximately 5,000 miles.**

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH IN PALENCIA

Meanwhile, back on the home front, the first Sunday of January half of the members of our church in Palencia including the pastor and his family were infected with the Omicron variant of COVID. Nevertheless, a lay pastor, Hector Méndez, presided over the service, preached the message, and another one of the men led the singing acapella since our piano players were also infected. Even with half the church in quarantine, there were still 22 in attendance besides those who were watching via YouTube. Within a week, all those infected had recuperated, and the church resumed its normal services. Attendance has picked back up now that Omicron is in decline. Little by little the government is dropping the regulations imposed since the beginning of COVID, but our folks still are required to wear masks indoors and practice social distancing.

The third Sunday of January, the church celebrated its seventh annual business meeting with the interim pastor Valentin Lucaci presiding, and the last Sunday of January they celebrated the annual Missions' Sunday. Our home missionary, Gaston Salazar was the guest speaker. Gaston is one of our preacher boys who we graduated from the Bible Institute four years ago and was ordained three years ago. He is presently in the process of starting a church in the city of San Fernando in the Madrid metroplex.

On February 12th, for the first time in two years, our church celebrated a Valentine's banquet. Eight married couples were present including two husbands who are lost.

Therese and I are looking forward to returning to Spain soon. **We ask for your continued prayers for our travels, our health, as well as for the ministry of the Faith Baptist Church of Palencia. Thank you for your faithfulness to our ministry!**



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Serving Christ together,

Bill + Therese