

Bill & Therese Williams

August - October 2021



COVID HITS

After 18 months of preventing the spread of COVID in our church, the first of August saw eight of our flock infected including Therese and I, as well as an 8 month-old baby. We were infected by our music director who had a very high viral content and spent three weeks in the hospital with double pneumonia. Even though his oxygen level dropped dangerously low for a week; the Lord healed Alejandro as well as his wife and baby. Therese and I were in confinement for ten days, but like the others who were infected, we were not very sick, thanks be to the Lord, and probably due to the fact that we had received the first dose of the vaccination in June.

FURLOUGH TRAVELS

Therese and I arrived at DFW airport on September 15th and hit the ground running... or maybe I should saying, driving. Since that date, we have reported to seven of our supporting churches, as well as visiting a few days with our son and family in Virginia. We have already logged almost 3,000 miles on our leased vehicle traveling from Texas to our present location in Boston, Massachusetts. Due to variances in COVID restrictions as well as the extended length of time since we have been on furlough, it has been more difficult for me and Therese to acclimatize ourselves to the USA again; but the warm and loving reception of our brethren in the churches we have visited has greatly helped us to adjust once more to the language and culture here in the states. What a blessing it has been to be received with such love and concern for our well-being as well as a great desire to hear of the blessings of the Lord upon our ministry back in Spain! We look forward to sharing these blessings with the balance of the churches we have scheduled to visit until our return in April next year.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

The continuing COVID restrictions on our churches in Spain did not prevent the Faith Baptist Church of Palencia from celebrating its sixth anniversary as an organized church on the 12th of September. It was a beautiful summer day which began in the morning as we gathered by the Pisuerga River to celebrate the first of the church's ordinances in the baptism of four new converts as well as a middle-aged couple who had made professions of faith years ago in their respective country of Peru but had never been baptized. Therese and I had led the other four converts to Christ in the months preceding the baptismal service including a mother, Maria Isabel, and her daughter, Jennifer.

After the baptismal service, we returned to our church building where we celebrated our regular preaching service, in which I preached on Habakkuk 3:2 - "*O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years.*" In light of the sixth anniversary of God's blessings on our church, many decisions were made by our folks to rededicate themselves to the Lord. There were 55 present in the service which was a record since before COVID hit.

Following the service, most of our folks met in the park situated along the Carrion River where we fellowshiped together in a picnic and celebrated the church anniversary with cake and ice cream. Finally, after the picnic we returned to the church building to celebrate the other church ordinance of the Lord's Supper. Almost every church member was present as well as some faithful attenders who we pray will soon become members. At the end of the Lord's Supper, the provisional transition of the pastorate was formalized by our national pastor Valentin Lucaci who has become the interim pastor during our seven-month furlough. COVID restrictions were completely set aside with hugs and kisses as all those present gave me and Therese a tearful "adios" (which literally means "to God") as well as a plea to hurry back. We are very pleased to inform you all that in the intervening three weeks since we have returned to the states, the church has moved on to even greater feats in renewed activities and attendance. There were 57 in attendance last Sunday with five first-time visitors. Thirteen of our teenagers attended a youth rally in our camp last Saturday.

Truly, the Lord's blessings are upon the Faith Baptist Church of Palencia. And we know that a great part of His blessings are due to your faithfulness in supporting our ministry, financially as well as in prayer. May the Lord richly bless you all for your faithfulness!

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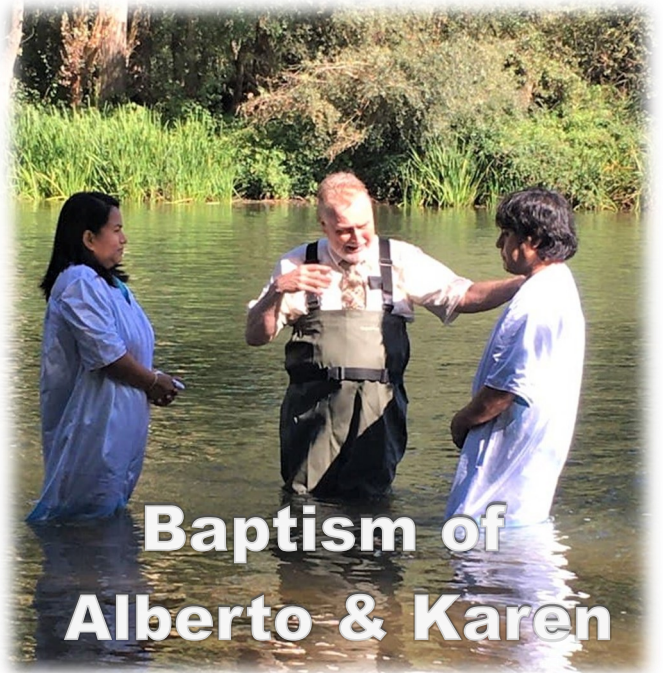
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Six Baptized September 12th



**Baptism of
Alberto & Karen**



Sixth Anniversary Celebration