

Bill & Therese Williams

May - June 2022



BACK HOME

Our last correspondence was from the DFW airport two months ago today as we were waiting on our delayed flight back to Madrid after an exhausting, but very satisfying seven-month furlough. We arrived in country grateful for the Lord's rich blessings in the form of His protection and care for us and are still amazed, even after 10 furloughs in 35 years, of the love and care we received from all of our faithful supporting churches.

After several days of trying to recuperate from jetlag (the older you get the more difficult it is) Valentin and Laura, the national pastor and his wife asked us to meet them at the church in order to go over the schedule for the next Sunday. We knew something was fishy about it, and our suspicions were confirmed when we walked in the door, and the whole church was assembled to give us a welcome home party and dinner. After many joyful tears and hugs and holy kisses (forget COVID regulations!) they presented us with gifts and gave testimonies of God's grace and blessings in the church in our absence. Almost the whole church was present including a new family who is even now preparing to join in membership with us.

CONTINUING ON

Within a short period of time of our arrival, we jumped right back in to the ministry. It felt so good to preach and teach in Spanish once again! The church attendance is back to pre-COVID numbers and growing. We have had visitors almost every service. We realized right away that we need more Sunday School space, so we have torn down a wall in order to create another classroom. We are also planning on creating an overflow room for our auditorium as well as buying more chairs.

One of the young sons of a family in the church made a profession of faith this last month, so hopefully in September, we will be holding another Sunday baptismal service in the river nearby.

We have also made five trips out to Mount Calvary Baptist Camp for renovations in order to help get it ready for the five weeks of camp which will start in the next few weeks.

DECREASING

So two months later, we are settled back in as if we had never left. Well, except for the fact that Pastor Valentin and Laura are now increasing as we are decreasing little by little (John 3:30). We found the church in a marvelous spiritual condition which has confirmed to us that we need to wrap up our ministry here in Palencia, and Lord willing, here in Spain. Nevertheless, we feel we still need to stick around for a couple of more years as we wind down our ministries, relinquishing them to the nationals. As we have informed almost all our supporting churches we visited this past furlough, Lord willing within the year, I will resign as pastor and the church will vote for Valentin to become the next pastor. We will have worked ourselves out of a job, which is the ultimate goal of a missionary.

We ask for your continued prayers for our ministry, our health, as well as for where and how the Lord would have us continue our ministry in the years to come. Thank you for your faithfulness throughout these last 35 years as your missionaries to Spain!

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Serving Christ together,

Bill & Therese