

Bill & Therese Williams

November - December 2020

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)!"

This first sentence which I have placed in quotes is verbatim what I wrote in our prayer letter this time last year, and, of course, it is absolutely true according to the annotated Bible verse written to the church at Thessalonica, *"In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* But what I wrote in my letter was pre-COVID. So now do we give thanks for this dreadful virus which has caused so much suffering around the world? Admittedly that is hard to do, considering how much grief it has caused even among the brethren in our churches. Nevertheless, what Satan means for evil, God turns into good. Rejoice with me in the *good* which God has wrought even in the midst of suffering and sadness.

THE MINISTRY CONTINUES

The attendance of the Faith Baptist Church of Palencia is not completely back to where it was this time last year, but we reached 50 this past Sunday in the midst of the second wave here in Spain which has been more severe than the first wave last spring! The government of Spain as well as our local governments have allowed the churches to continue to hold services, at least in our province, at 50% capacity. We have curtailed our activities, as well as adapted our services, but are still teaching and preaching the Word to a face-to-face congregation (although with masks on and social distancing).

Since the first of the year, eight people have come to know the Lord as their Saviour and six were baptized last summer in the river nearby.

We have had to cancel furlough plans until later on next year as well as plans to turn over the church to the associate pastor because of COVID, but we are seeing now how it was truly the will of the Lord as He revealed to us areas that need attention in order to have a more mature church.

Partly due to COVID, the owner of a sewing store that is joined to our building decided to take early retirement, and so the small building became available to our church. It is owned by the same landlord we are renting from, so he allowed us to rent it for a very cheap amount until this next summer when we can renegotiate the rent on the entire building. This annex is being used for Sunday School as well as our junior church for our primaries which helps us with the limited capacity we can hold for our main building. We are also using it for the pastor's office.

Therese and I have also found a smaller apartment with a muchly reduced monthly rent payment which we have moved into this past month. This will greatly help our budget as the dollar has lost 10% of its value in the last six weeks. Please note our new Spanish address above.

For six months, our church was spared from anyone being infected with Corona Virus. Our first case was in mid-October, and since then we have seen three families come down with the disease, but all have recuperated completely. None were infected through attendance in our church.

Nevertheless, a 35 year-old mother of three who attended our church several times last year, Natalia, was hospitalized with COVID. Within a week she was placed in intensive care and intubated with an induced coma. One doctor told her husband after a week in intensive care, that x-rays of her lungs revealed that she had little chance of survival. Our church immediately formed a daily prayer vigil and within six weeks, Natalia walked five flights up to her apartment and was welcomed home by her family. It was definitely a miracle, and it strengthened the faith of our church. But pray for the salvation of Natalia. We are witnessing to her of God's grace in preserving her life for a reason.

However, last Thursday, the father of one of the men of our church, Juan succumbed to the disease while in intensive care in a hospital in Lima, Peru. Four years ago, Juan and his wife, Julia, came to visit with his son here in Palencia. I led both Juan and Julia to the Lord (see our October/November 2016 prayer letter). They returned to Peru, found a good church, were baptized, and have faithfully served the Lord since then. While Juan's graduation to Heaven was very difficult for his wife and son here in Spain; nevertheless, the memorial service we held this past Sunday for Juan was a great blessing in that we know that Juan is with the Lord. Through his death, his testimony these last four years has been made evident and is already having an effect on his two sons in Peru who are not saved, as well as many of his unsaved friends. Pray for their sons, Cesar and Jorge, that they might also receive Christ as Saviour.

There is so much more we could relate to you to show how we should be thankful to the Lord even in midst of such tragedy and sadness all around us. God is ALWAYS good! *"...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

To God be the glory! We would appreciate your prayers for these petitions I have previously mentioned as well as for me and Therese as we continue to labor here in Spain.

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

- **Sending Church:**
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Serving Christ together,

Bill & Therese

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Photo Page



Natalia (on the right)
with a lady from our church.



**Juan and Julia
with Bill and Therese**



Annex - Exterior



**Six teens and children
Baptized in September**



Annex - Interior



**5th Anniversary in September
53 present**