

LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS! (Colossians 3:15)

his time of the year we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace! At his birth the angels proclaimed....

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

In these uncertain perilous times we face, there seems to be a total lack of peace and to the contrary unrest and uncertainty on every side. The natural inclination would be to wring our hands and worry about the future of our lives and our country. Nevertheless, we as believers in the Prince of Peace have the hope of the "peace that passeth all understanding." In the passage of the heading of this paragraph we are admonished to "let the peace of God rule in our hearts." So let us remember that the Lord is aware of all that is happening and is working everything according to His will. Our responsibility is to continue to serve Him in the obedience to the Great Commission.

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THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL

o matter how Satan attacks the true church of Jesus Christ; whether it be through persecution, or governmental control, or internal conflict, immorality, and false doctrine, or pestilence like COVID, Jesus proclaimed that nothing Satan can do will ultimately prevail against the church. Therese and I have seen that divine promise fulfilled in our churches in Spain as well as our supporting churches we have visited on this furlough. In spite of very difficult circumstances the Faith Baptist Church in Palencia, Spain, has prospered in many ways. Let me review a few of those ways:

- Since the beginning of COVID, twelve lost souls have come to know the Lord as their Saviour and twelve have been baptized the last two summers in the Pisuerga river nearby.
- Even though COVID regulations have limited our services and activities, the church has adapted to them in every instance and has been innovative in order to continue and enhance the worship of the Lord and the study and preaching of His Word.
- Physical attendance necessarily dropped at the beginning of the pandemic, but over the last twenty months it has come back to more than pre-COVID levels. An abundance of visitors have attended and membership has increased.
- Tithes and offerings have increased and the church is in better financial condition than before the pandemic.
- For eighteen months, our church was spared from the spread of COVID within the church. But in August our music director spent three weeks in the hospital with double pneumonia. Seven others in the church were infected including his wife, his 9 month-old son, as well as me and Therese. Nevertheless, all recovered within several weeks of the infection.
- While Therese and I are on furlough, the interim pastor of the church. Valentin Lucaci, and his wife are moving the church forward, even organizing and celebrating the annual mission Sunday the first of this month. Our faith promise offerings were met this past year, and an increase was promised for the new year.

FURLOUGH TRAVELS

Cince September 15th, Therese and I have been very blessed to report back to 16 of our faithful supporting churches and have traveled over 8,000 miles from Texas to Boston, to Virginia, to Georgia, to Florida, to Arkansas, and I am writing this letter to you from Springfield, Missouri. Until the first of the year, Therese is caring for her sister who is suffering from cancer. We would appreciate your prayers for traveling mercies for me and Therese.



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

Serving Christ together, Bill + Therese