



DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS JUNE/JULY 2018

This prayer letter will be in a different format, as we are currently on sabbatical/furlough in the States. Pastor Javier has offered to write the prayer letter in our absence, in order to keep you as up to date as possible on the needs and advancements in the church ministry. Please pray for him and the rest of the church leadership in this time! Also keep in mind that the church is only able to pay half of his needed salary at the moment, and he is needing to raise about \$800 monthly until their giving can catch up. Please write me directly to find out how to help! Scott Newton

Beloved brothers,

It is a real pleasure to be in contact with you all in order to update you on the development of our small church here in Sabadell.

First, let me say that we very much miss the presence and ministry of the Newton family among us. Pastor Scott and Melissa have built a legacy and solid foundations which are allowing the church to grow and mature both numerically and spiritually. God will never forget this work, nor will our church.

We are very excited to have received the news in the last few weeks that our church has been accepted in the national registry of religious institutions, and have been granted a financial identification number to be able to process economical transactions, as we are now officially considered a church by the government.

We know, of course, that it is God who gives legitimacy to churches, and not man, but complying with the laws of the land helps us not only to fulfill the mandate of Romans 13 to be in submission to local authorities, but also to take on new challenges in the future: such as having our building completely in compliance with local codes in order to meet as a congregation, have our own bank account, and soon (Lord willing) to submit my work contract as a pastor. We ask for your continued prayers that we will be able to comply with Spanish law in all that we do.

We have seen a marked increase in church attendance in the past few months, which of course is a great joy to the church, but also a great challenge, as the majority are believers seeking a healthy church in which the Gospel is both preached and lived. These are people who come with much uncertainty, doubts, and emotional wounds suffered at the hands of pastors and churches who have neglected their duties to care for souls.

We ask for your prayers for these folks, that they not only find rest in the green pastures and flowing waters of the Word, but that the Lord will also help us to guide and disciple them in a greater understanding of the Gospel and the Christian life. We stand in need of grace and wisdom to give them.

I recently concluded a sermon series on the book of Ruth, and it was a great joy to see how the brothers and sisters delighted themselves in this small but powerful book of the OT. Among many other things, we learned

of the Providence and care of God for His people, and how in the midst of the most difficult circumstances He displays His love and mercy, restoring and saving His children. His great plan of bringing a Redeemer in Christ, making all things new, is clearly seen in the pages of this book in a beautiful and poetic way. God is always good! This September I plan to begin another series on the book of Romans, and ask for your prayers the the Lord would illuminate and help me to be faithful to Scripture in order to edify His church upon the solid Rock of His Word, and the Gospel.

In the past few weeks we have seen a great growth in attendance from unbelievers and truth seekers. We thank God for them, as some are regular attenders, such as:

Rivelino, a young man from Guinea Bissau. He comes from a Catholic family, has been in Spain only a short time, and learned of our church through pastor Scott. After hearing the Gospel every week, he now has begun asking himself if he is a true Christian. May the Lord help him to see his sin and to surrender completely in faith at the feet of the cross! Lord willing, we will be starting a discipleship course soon with Rivelino.

Another example is Santiago (Santi). He is a Spaniard, and like the majority of his countrymen, from a Catholic family. Santi is a psychologist working with elderly people who suffer from mental and emotional issues. He practiced Buddhism for many years, but found it unable to satisfy his thirst, needing something more. He quickly realized that it was a selfish religion, and powerless to change lives. Thus he began to study Christianity on his own, starting from the Gospel of John. Soon, in God's Providence, he heard the Gospel from Katy, a member of our church. He has been attending for the past three weeks, and has said that everything in his life is beginning to finally make sense. The preached Word of God is beginning to have its effect on his heart, and is convicting him strongly of his sin, while simultaneously giving him great peace! We hope to begin discipleship with him in September.

We ask for prayer for these two lives, as well as for all the unbelievers attending IBE, that the Holy Spirit will completely transform their hearts, and bring them to a true conversion unto the glory and gladdening of God's heart!

Brothers, it is a blessing and source of great joy seeing how the Lord is accomplishing His work in the church in Sabadell. May He continue to use us according to His purpose. We are very grateful for your prayers and financial support, as they are much needed. God is not unjust to forget your labor of love! (Hebrews 6:10)

Your brother and co-worker in the Gospel,
Javier Pérez Albandoz