

## APRIL-MAY 2011

**Psalm 35:18 I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.**

Greetings in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! I want to start out this prayer letter by trying to practice what I preach. In last Wednesday's prayer meeting, I encouraged the folks here to not only keep praying for the members who are suffering long-term health problems, but also to remember to give Him thanks for the many answers that we have seen in response to our prayers. The Lord reminded me to do the same, so I would like to praise Him for the many things we have seen Him do in the last few months.

First of all, thank you for your prayers for our son Danny. We spoke to him this past week, he and his group are now beginning the transition phase of their time on the air base in Qatar. On Monday they fly back to the States, and we thank the Lord for keeping him and his fellow airmen safe despite the long hours and potentially dangerous situations they were in.

I also want to thank all of you who prayed for Sue. She was hospitalized a couple weeks ago with severe abdominal pains, which in the end turned out to be an orange-sized cyst attached to one of her ovaries. Since the pain went away and the cyst presents no specific health threat, the doctors have decided to wait a month to see whether the cyst grows, shrinks, or remains the same. Please keep praying for her health as it is an obvious concern.

Lastly, we want to thank you for your prayers for the Zaragoza church. As of March 13, the church has no deacons or elders, but they want me to continue helping the church through this transition time. Most of the congregation is looking at this as a fresh new start for the church, and I have seen many men and couples demonstrate great potential for leadership. We baptized nine people last Sunday, both Spaniards and immigrants, young and old, men and women. It was a joyful time for the entire church, and half a dozen people have already expressed their desire to get baptized in our next baptism service in the fall. We have also begun to develop discipleship, with the first step being to disciple these new believers. One of the disciplers told me that this is the first time in many years that she has enjoyed coming to church again. I made sure that she understood that it had much more to do with she and her husband ministering to a new believer than with any changes that have been made. In the month of April we had a marriage conference that was so well received that we have already scheduled another one for June. In the area of evangelism, even though we have seen no direct fruit from our monthly events, we have seen several new people start attending the church. We know that is no coincidence, and are making sure that those who are testifying recognize the fact. We also have seen a hunger for the word of God, our Friday night Bible studies with the young people have grown to over 20 people, and our Thursday Bible study with new believers has grown to 7 men.

**Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.**

Never have I seen the truth of this verse so clearly as it has been manifested in the last few months. I thought that the time I would have to take away from the ministry in the towns would hinder the work, but it has done just the opposite. Juan and Medardo have stepped up to take responsibility in the towns of Tauste, Cariñena, and Pina in a way that I had always hoped, but never saw. It has served to show us all that this is God's work, and not that of any one man. Juan has seen very clearly that he was wrong when he said to me, "On the day that you stop going to the towns, this ministry will end." Because of the additional contact that I have had with the church, we now have an extra guitar player to help with the music, something we have prayed about for years, as well as several new people preaching, evangelizing and recruiting others to work in the towns.

Another aspect where we have seen this truth is in regards to the immigrant population. While many Spaniards lament the changes that are occurring here because of the influx of over 6 million immigrants in the last ten years, we have seen at least one positive aspect. I have met four men just in the last month who have started coming to our church because of contact with a woman from another country who was a Christian. It is expedient for us to continue helping these foreign Christians have a vision for the most important reason that God has sent them here. Not to improve their lives, not to escape poverty, but to be witnesses to this people who share an erroneous perception of a merciless God and yet recognize the great spiritual need that they continue to have.

Lastly, I have never considered myself capable of being a pastor, telling people since the day we arrived in Spain that "I am a missionary, not a pastor." I recognize that being a pastor requires a special heart for people. Nevertheless, I am obviously performing many "pastoral" duties during these last months. It amazes me to see God working in me and giving me all that I need, especially in the area of working with new leaders. Please keep praying for Sue and I, that God would enable us to train up leaders from among this congregation. We are both convinced that with sound training and teaching, God will use this church in a great way to reach Zaragoza, the towns of Aragón, and to the ends of the earth.

**Jim Tagliatela and family**

**Sent by First Bible Baptist Church**

**Rochester New York**

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