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Dear Friends,

After discussing the “heroes” of faith, Hebrews ch. 11 says: *“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance...and let us run with endurance the race set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.”* (Heb. 12:1-2) 2017 is the 500th anniv. of the Reformation. There will be many commemorative events in Europe. The Evangelical churches in Spain are also organizing events to remember the *“great cloud of witnesses surrounding us”* and how they left us a legacy of faith and sacrifice to keep preaching Christ. As we see Christians suffer persecution, tragedies like terminal illness, natural disasters, etc.; instead of questioning God, we need to examine our Christian life and see if we are living up to what Jesus and so many believers did to give us the gospel of salvation by **grace alone** through **faith alone** in **Christ alone**, and then we need to *“run with endurance” for the glory of God alone!*

Puebla del Río Church and other ministry. We’ve been busy since the new year began! Apart from the normal Christmas activities (which end here on Epiphany Jan. 6th), in **December** we had our annual church business meeting, visited the nursing home to sing carols and give gifts to the patients, & an outing to Seville to see the Christmas lights; in **January** we started a new 14-part series in Ecclesiastes, had a special prayer service in the Catholic Church (see on that below), and a special Youth meeting with 9 church youth; in **February** we had a couples’ dinner outing for Valentine’s Day and a special baptism service on Feb. 26th; from **March 2nd to 5th**, Salud and I attended the national congress for the Federation of Evangelical Churches as the delegates of the Puebla Church. In between all of these “big”



activities, we’ve had the “small” church activities of weekly prayer meeting, the bi-weekly cell group, monthly men’s breakfast, counseling times, visits to sick members or who’ve had the death of a family member, church Board meetings, and ladies activities that Salud oversees. I also taught in 2 expository preaching seminar-workshops for over 40 pastors from all Andalucía, one on **Feb.10-11** and another on **Mar. 11th**.

On Tues. Jan. 24th we had a 2nd prayer service, this time invited by the new priest, Rafael, and at the town’s Catholic Church. He asked me to prepare the service with him, using materials based on 2 Cor. 5:14-21 from a German Catholic group, which has had joint activities with German Evangelicals for several yrs. to prepare for the 500th anniv. of the Reformation. He canceled mass for the program and asked me to speak about **what** the Evangelical church is and **why** it is in town. The Coria del Río Evangelical pastor, José María, came again to help out. I told some 30 parishioners and 8-9 Evangelicals that we are here to proclaim Jesus Christ and that **only through Him can they be saved and reconciled to God**, like we had just read in the Bible, and just like the Spanish reformers had preached in the 16th century, even though they were burned at the stake for that. In Sunday mass prior to the meeting, Rafael announced that there are two Christian churches in town: the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church, and that the Evangelical Church is not a cult! A neighbour of one our church ladies told her what the priest said, and that she had believed we were a cult, but now she knew we were not and wants to come to visit our church sometime! ***Please thank God with us that a major barrier that has existed in the minds of many Catholics here has been knocked down!!*** We’re committed to keep building bridges to explain the gospel more clearly to people.



Family news: Salud had good checkups in gynaecology in Jan. and in oncology in Feb. Thank you for praying for her health. Her oncologist said she will have no more CT scans only a blood test in 6 months. Jonathan and Elisabeth continue to do well at their universities and we are very proud of them. I’ve become involved with the Evangelical



Historical Society of Seville and gave 2 conferences on the Spanish Reformation on Feb. 25th and have another one in May. In April I’ll also give an all-day conference on the Spiritual Gifts in the N.T. at the same church in Cádiz province where I gave the conference on serving back in November. We are never bored!

Thank you to all of you who pray for and/or support us financially to serve the Lord Jesus here in the Puebla del Río church and other parts of Andalucía. May God bless you for it and help you to *“run with endurance the race set before us”*, so that you leave a legacy that glorifies Jesus Christ!

In Jesus’ love and service, **Frank, Salud, Jonathan and Elisabeth**