

# The Martinez's

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## “For . . . unto us a son is given” Isa. 9.6

Will we ever grasp the immeasurable gift that our Father gave us? There was nothing greater than the Son, no greater selflessness than what was given, his life, and given in love for undeserving sinners like us. May he enable us to reflect and share with

generosity this wonderful love that we have received.

## Our Teaching Ministry Continues on

This semester we have been delighted to teach Bibliology and engage with the students concerning their Christian service. During December I also taught Introduction to New Testament, until this week, when the Christmas break has

begun. Among other important things, the institution has received an answer and request from the Ministry of Education of Spain (after their inspection back in September). We will have 20 days to respond with the adjustments required, hoping that our official accreditation will continue. Again, it is not recognition that the school is looking for, it is a presence and witness in our needy country, where the Evangelical church is almost unseen in public life. Please pray that the Lord will help us and that everything will go smoothly in this renewal of accreditation.



Teaching in IBSTE



Our Church Retreat Nov. 17-19

## Our Church Ministry

At the beginning of November, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we shared a conference on the Reformation in another church in Barcelona. Later on, in November 17-19 we had a great church retreat. The people said that attendance was higher than any other time, about 110. The theme was “How to edify one another.” Not only the conferences were great, but the subject matter stimulated a great attitude among the group, a fresh interest to help each other. Praise the Lord.

The nine cells, three of which include several unsaved persons, one aiming towards a mission church, continue on with joy. Ten individuals who are in the two year program “Prepared to Serve” also continue encouraged, doing their homework and plowing through a Bible Survey and the Perspective to Serve others. We praise the Lord.

We praise the Lord particularly for the visit of Victor Ramirez with his wife Mady to our church. He was the young man who went to the States to prepare himself for the ministry. He has returned with

a Master in Bible Exposition and is presently finishing a two year commitment, helping a mission church to be established in Monzón (2 hrs. away from us). We have rejoiced seeing his heart, his growth, and also his preaching. After he came on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> to know the school where I teach, he visited the church on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> with his wife, spending the week-end in our home. He teaches English as his secular occupation, but we pray and are in conversations to see if he would apply and be accepted as a TBM missionary. Please pray for him; he has great potential and a great heart to serve the Lord and the people in this country. I really wish that the Lord would lead him close to us so that we might be connected somehow.



Introducing Victor to our Congregation before he preached



Rosa Sharing at the Christmas' Ladies meeting

We also thank the Lord for the Christmas program we could have in our church, one of the highlights of the year in the Vilanova Church's life. The church was packed and we preached with liberty and joy the wonderful gospel of Christ.

On Dec. 19, Rosa was also invited to preach in the Ladies' Christmas Meeting of the Independent Evangelical Churches of Catalonia. We praise the Lord for that opportunity. The Lord blessed the meeting, and it became an encouragement for all.

### **Political Situation in Catalonia**

Some of you might wonder about the things that are told about Catalonia. Yes, we have a bit of a struggle between a coalition of political parties which push for independence and a national government that pushes against it. The tendencies of independence or unity with Spain are present in our churches and have demanded pastoral work and orientation, personally and from the pulpit. In our hearts, we specially yearn to be able to preach in Catalan to the Catalan people, a considerable group of people who are very liberal, secular, but not evangelized yet. With our busy schedule we pray that the Lord will open doors, particularly as the new year begins, to evangelize in Catalan. In fact, the Major of our town is a lady who is President of the Association of Towns for the Independence; you can guess the number of people of different ages who sympathize with that Catalonian enthusiasm. It is not that we desire independence, but only the Roman traditionalism has been able to enter and mingle in those circles, and we desire to take the clear and pure light of the gospel to them.

### **May you have a blessed Christmas season and a wonderful beginning of a new year**

Thank you so much for sharing in our calling with your friendship, prayers, and support. I trust and pray that the Lord will also be richly blessing your activities as a church, your family gatherings, and that this will be a time of refreshment and encouragement to face another year and live for him who gave us his Son completely and without reservations. May the Lord help us and strengthen us.

With joy in the Lord,

*Manuel and Rosa Martínez.*

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