



P.O. Box 160
LaGrange, WY 82221
Phone: (307) 223-9400
www.tentmakersbiblemission.org

Frank and Salud Benoit
Apartado 43

41130, Puebla del Río
(SEVILLA) Spain

Phone: 011-34-95-577-0688

E-mail: frasalben@yahoo.com

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Dear Friends,

This is an update on our situation with the coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic in Spain, and where you all are too, because so many are now asking us. ***Thank you to the many that have sent us emails to ask about how we are doing.*** Just the past week or so I have written back to 7-8 people to let them know that ***we are doing well, healthy and with no virus symptoms***, after 25 days of lockdown. I have also had Skype calls with 2-3 others to share the same good news. We are grateful to God that ***Jonathan and Irene, in Jaén, are still healthy and safe***, (even though he works at the hospital and does shifts in the ER every 4-5 days); and that ***Elisabeth and Cooper are here at home with us*** since Mar. 15th and also doing well.

So much has changed since we sent out our 1st quarter 2020 prayer letter 4 weeks ago. On Mar. 14th Spain declared a state of emergency, which has been extended twice now. It is supposed to end after April 25th. But we praise God that we are all healthy and blessed to have abundant food, a home to shelter us, grocery stores, the pharmacy, the bank and the Post Office, all just a few blocks walk from our front door. We also have technology to keep us in touch by phone, Whatsapp, Skype, Zoom, Facebook, emails and all that is a blessing. We get to talk with Jonathan and Irene every 3-4 days by video-call. We have books to read, music to listen to, TV to watch, ***the list of blessings just goes on and on!***

It is Easter week. For many countries, maybe for the first time since World War II, there will be no or few Easter services – except for the virtual ones. Most of us and maybe 70% of the world's population are under a stay at home order, or even stricter quarantine measures depending on the country or state you are in. Here in Spain the fines for breaking the order start around 300-600€ euros and go up to 60.000€, depending on the seriousness of the violation. We are ordered to stay inside our homes, except for essential needs like buying groceries or going to work. But so many are out of work as stores, restaurants, shopping centers, churches, schools, theaters, hotels, sports events, etc. are all closed or cancelled. Our prayers go out to all the people affected by the economic crisis that has come as a result of the pandemic as well as to the thousands of people who have lost loved ones. Spain has the second highest level of Covid-19 cases in the world, second only to the U.S.; and the second highest level of deaths after Italy. But our part of Spain (Andalucía) it is one of the least affected areas (about 75 cases per 100,000 people, which is similar to the level in Colorado). The worst areas are up north in Madrid and Barcelona, where half of all the cases in Spain are located.

Puebla del Río Church ministry. The church has been closed since Mar. 12th. Our last Sunday service was on Mar. 8th, so obviously ***the Easter mini-campaign*** we had planned is cancelled. All the services and other activities are cancelled until the state of emergency is lifted. The church keeps in touch by several Whatsapp groups that we use. I also got help to set up a YouTube channel to post a 15 min. video of our Sunday sermon, so that the church folk can keep following the teaching of the Bible. We don't have the means or the skills to do a live or streaming Sunday service, but we send the Whatsapp groups a 2-3 min. introductory video, the link to some praise song/hymn videos to watch as part of the worship "service", and then send the link to the YouTube video so that they can watch the sermon. That allows us to continue being "together" as a church body. It has been a challenge to learn how to do so many new things, but the Lord has helped us. ***Please pray for the Puebla church as we adapt to this situation and try to be a good testimony to those around us at the same time.*** "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time." (1 Cor. 15:3-6, NASB)

Thank you again for praying for us and encouraging us. We appreciate you and your concern and pray that God would give you a safe and blessed Easter and keep you healthy in everything!

In Jesus' love and service,

Frank, Salud, Jonathan and Elisabeth

