

The Martinez's



Dear friends in the Lord,

It is a bit difficult to write after a long time since our last prayer letter. As I shared in our facebook, our responsibilities as the president of the College have been like a tsunami. Amidst joys, victories, and difficulties, we praise the Lord for his presence, his help, and his work among us.

Our College is Facultad Internacional de Teología IBSTE, www.ibste.org. We have a total of 37 students in all four grades. Our subjects are mostly of thirty classroom hours

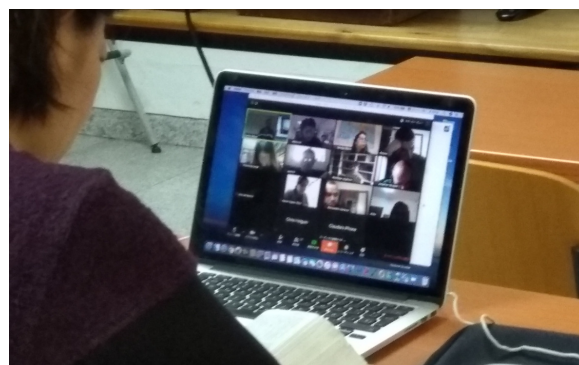
(instead of sixty), since that helps us for external teachers to teach some subjects. There are 27 teachers. Most of us are either residents or from the area of Barcelona, but some are from distant parts of Spain, even from Germany. Our students come from our region, Spain, and different parts of the world. We have even had students from Missouri or Wisconsin, who came for a short term exchange and then stayed for the rest of their studies. We have also quite a few requests from Central and South America, even though the cost of the program and stay become at times difficult for them to assume.



We also host a Chinese Seminar in our facilities, even though they also have a small building aside from us. About a decade ago, our College went through serious difficulties and their coming became an invaluable help to use the facilities and thus cover costs. This second semester, starting on February, began the rollercoaster of the corona virus. First the issue was how those coming from Taiwan, China... would keep their quarantine. But then Italy and Spain followed in their increasing problem of cases. The disease and its results has been really overwhelming, particularly in Madrid and Barcelona, very busy cities. Among our people, only one student has been infected with the virus. That is

great, considering our former contact with different congregations, travels to Madrid, etc.

First the Chinese Seminar decided to go on line for their second semester. On May 14th, we had to do the same. The experience has been great. It has even shown us the possibilities to offer our teaching on line. After Easter we will have one experience with Introduction to the New Testament (I am the teacher), and we will see how it results in order to offer a smaller program on line for next year. I have also began to produce some videos, "30' en la Palabra", trying to help churches who might not be able to broadcast their services in this period of confinement. It is a 30 minute video with a praise song, a meditation and some questions to stimulate dialogue among the group who desires to watch it. I publish it both in my youtube channel as well as in the facebook page "Fe, Convicción y Vida" (<https://www.facebook.com/feconviccionyvida>) Seeing that so much material is broadcasted in these days, I desire to contribute with what I understand to be the truth of the Word.



Let me particularly thank you those of you who even during these months of silence, you have sent us cards and words of encouragement. They have been very special and have really encouraged us in

difficult moments. We will never forget all of you who through your prayers, love and support have helped us to walk our way serving the Lord.

I have rejoiced seeing some of your live services in the web. It has been very special to see pastors and people whom we love. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless and use you for his glory. May he help us, strengthen us, lead us, to walk in these somewhat unknown paths for our modern world (like the old time plagues). May we be found faithful to him, serving our brothers and sisters, and helping those who do not know him to come to him.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manuel and Rosa Martínez". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Manuel and Rosa Martínez.

Ps. From now on, our communication with you all will be through our personal facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/tbmmanuel.martinez> where I have created a group “In English”, where I include every friend request who speaks in that language. If per chance you would like to follow our page in Spanish, we have “Faith, Conviction and Life” <https://www.facebook.com/feconviccionyvida> as a facebook page where to publish messages, events, thoughts, etc., which you may recommend to those whom you know speak Spanish.