

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,

We hope you are well as the pandemic reaches a full year now. We are still Covid-free and thank God that the curve finally is descending. The vaccines are helping many people to stay infection-free and hospitals aren't filled to capacity with Covid-19 patients. Habakkuk 3:17-18 says: *"Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines...the yield of the olive should fail, and*

the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off...and there be no cattle...yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation". Habakkuk served 20-30 yrs. before the fall of Judah and coming judgment. "Yet" in the face of bad times ("not blossom...no fruit...no food...no cattle"), he kept his faith, focus and joy on "the LORD... the God of my salvation". As we face all the adverse circumstances from the pandemic, let's also "exult in the LORD" and "rejoice in the God of [our] salvation", in spite of the circumstances!

Puebla del Río Church. We've had no church services since our last Sun. service on Sept. 27, 2020. The church has been closed for 5 months now. Frank canceled services as a precaution when the covid-19 cases in town began rising rapidly. Two weeks later in Oct., Andalucía's borders were closed to the rest of Spain and Portugal, then each province had its border closed. After that, specific towns were put on lockdown. Puebla was closed from Oct. 30th-Dec. 18th, and then again for 4 weeks in Jan.-Feb. 2021, so we are glad that the town is open now. *We look forward to starting church as soon as Covid-19 levels are safe enough to meet*. Until then we continue to use the WhatsApp groups to communicate, share prayer requests, or put video sermons and other material to help in the Christian life. Obviously, it isn't the same as being in church and some have gotten discouraged. *So please pray for the Puebla church to be able to re-open soon and for members to keep their focus on the Lord and not on the circumstances which have discouraged them.*

Other ministry. On Feb. 2nd I finished a Bible Ethics class with 17 undergraduate students online (Whew, that was a lot!). Then Feb. 16th I began teaching a Master's level class on the History of Christianity with 3 students. I still go to the Seminary on Tuesdays to get set up online. <u>After various delays</u>, **my book is now available in both English and Spanish** at Amazon, CBD, Barnes & Noble, etc. I've promoted it online in different ways and Feb. 9th *I was interviewed by a Spanish radio program*

for You Tube again (just like in 2018). I thank all of you who are reading it, and who have written me with positive feedback! I believe that it will be a big help to many people. It is still too early to see how it will do at the online

retailers, but by June we'll see how the first 6 months will do. Thanks for reading



it, recommending it and praying for it!

Family news. What a joy it was to be all together for Christmas as the lockdowns ended on Dec. 18th! *Elisabeth and Sam* came first, then *Jonathan and Irene* came, and we had a great Christmas! Salud and I went to Granada and Jaén for New Year's and saw all of them again! Because of a teacher's pregnancy leave-of-absence in November, **Elisabeth got a job teaching** at an English School in Granada until the end of this school year! **Even more**



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important than that, <u>she and Sam got engaged!</u> We are really happy for them and also thank the Lord Jesus for bringing them to each other! *Please pray for them as they prepare their wedding* for this year. We should have more news on that in our 2nd quarter letter in June. We also hope to have more *news about our plans to travel to the U.S.A. in Nov. for a 6-mo. home assignment* to comply with the Social Security treaty between the U.S. and Spain (like I do every 5 years). Salud plans on coming for the whole time too, so we have to apply for her to get a visa. *Please pray for that paperwork to go well!*



Again, thank you for praying for us, supporting us, and encouraging us. God has blessed our family and us way more abundantly than we could imagine! We appreciate you and pray that God helps you to "exult in the LORD" and "rejoice in the God of [our] salvation", in spite of the pandemic! In Jesus' love and service,

Frank and Salud. Jonathan and Irene. and Elisabeth and Sam

