



FEB 2021

In This Newsletter

I am always encouraged reading updates from our missionaries throughout Europe. Tentmakers Bible Mission has missionaries serving in Russia, France, Italy and Spain. In this expanded newsletter we wanted to highlight our TBM missionaries in Europe. Hopefully, these will encourage your heart by reminding you that God is at work in the midst of this global pandemic.

Chuck Mathias,
Executive Director

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Please Pray for:

Our missionaries serving in
Russia, France, Spain and Italy

Our missionaries around the
world as they deal with
challenges and restrictions due
to the global pandemic.

Our Home Office as we serve
God's servants.

It Has Been A Good Year! Dan and Sharon Leatherwood, Spain

The other day I had an interesting conversation as I was doing some shopping. The cashier asked how this season is going and that conversation developed and we talked about how this has been a good year. As we talked, it hit me how this year has made people break out of their comfort zone and out of their "normal". We have all had the opportunities to stop and see what really matters. This cashier said emphatically, "I, for one, will never complain about having to come to work again!" It is easy to see people who have chosen to argue and fight and attack others instead of recognizing the importance of taking advantage of this moment. In 2020, plans haven't played out like expected, but special moments have risen for those willing to keep moving. God has taught us to avoid the attitude of just wanting to change the calendar page to 2021 and start over. Instead, we should relish every day and search for the lessons that he is teaching in each moment, as we would seek for treasure, because His tender lessons have so much more than the treasure this world has to offer.



"In 2020, plans
haven't played out
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In Spain, through this unusual season, we have been able to put together a YouTube channel for the church plant and have many more views than people in the church. It started, as we were not able to meet together as a group and then continued even through the moments when we were

able to meet in person. We were even able to do a daily study through Proverbs during November which many got excited as they daily read the Bible and looked for practical applications to live out! The core

group is growing and has shared about conversations they have had with family members or friends. Some of the conversations have been critical labeling us as a cult and yet even those conversations, although negative on the surface, show that people are talking and thinking about spiritual things. One woman sent me a message saying that she was confused about which church has the truth. We were able to enter into a conversation about the fact that it is not a church that has the truth but rather the Bible as it teaches about Jesus, who is the Truth. I explained that in looking for truth, it is important to read the Bible and then also find a place where the people can study the Bible together.

Counseling & COVID

Alex and Sveta Danilenka, Russia

All the family got Covid recently, and are doing well. The church is meeting online due to Covid.

Alex graduated recently with a Christian Counseling degree. He did so well in the course that the school he was in hired him immediately as an instructor.

He is also doing counseling, but it is hard work even though very interesting as well as a blessing. Alex has the freedom to use the Word of God! It is important to know that Alex is not using secular psychology to minister, but is biblically-based is what he says to the people he is helping. He is using discretion in his counseling, in that he does not force those who do not show an interest in listening to biblical instruction as a solution to their difficulties.

However, there are those who are willing to listen and accept God's Word, and Alex ministers to them further. There is one lady especially who has been blessed, and is making improvements in her difficulties in life.

It is important that Alex use this ministry in hard times such as the world is going through at the present. St. Petersburg currently has the highest Covid rates in Russia. Counseling people who are affected by the ramifications of Covid is a crucial ministry.

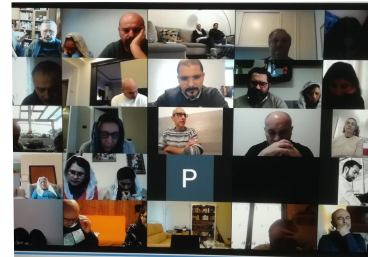


Thank you for every single prayer and practical support. At the end of this year we have much to thank God for.

We are thankful for friends we have made with our new neighborhood

We are thankful that church meetings have continued in spite of COVID (due to the significant capacity of our church hall).

We are thankful for different opportunities that Mirco had to preach the word through zoom and physically in some churches.



Much to Be Thankful For

Mirco and Paola Franzini, Italy

We are thankful for the studies that Paola and I have been doing for weeks with a distant cousin who is taking the first steps of faith.

We are thankful for a young man who contacted Mirco after reading his testimony in a newspaper. Through messages and phone calls Mirco is able to share the word of God.

We are thankful for the distribution of Christian calendars and books to many friends, authorities and new contacts.

God Has Been Good ...

Victor and Maddy Ramirez, Spain

We have had many opportunities to thank, trust and give testimony of the presence of God in our lives this past year. We look with excitement onto what we will be able to do for God this 2021.

After the summer, we were able to start a consistent Bible study and we have been asking people who have shown some interest before to join us now online. We have been studying the concept of Peace (Shalom from its Hebrew origin) from different passages of the Scriptures. The few people that have participated have been blessed by our time together and have been encouraged and challenged to share what they have learned with their

family members and friends. Some of them have said that they would also like to join us someday soon.

There is a man in our Bible study who has become a good friend and with whom I share thoughts about future plans and projects. He is open to starting a Bible study on his own with my supervision so I can start another parallel one. I look forward to seeing how this grows.



Although connections with others are limited because of health restrictions, we are growing in our relationship with God and with those around us. We aim to show people the love God has for them even in this time.

A Change of Perspective

Missionaries in France

As we looked forward to September, many were hoping that the restrictions would be taken away and we could begin to go back to normal again. However, after two weeks in school, there was another outbreak of the virus and it looks like we will be dealing with the restrictions a long time. As I was bemoaning the situation one morning during my prayer time, I recalled the apostle Paul saying, "my circumstances (of confinement) have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel."

After confessing my sin, we began to do the things we could do and leave the things that we could not do. In several days, we found ourselves with more opportunities than ever! We want to be good stewards of what the Lord sends our way.

We have decided to begin a Bible study on Revelation. When things go bad, people tend to think about the

end times and maybe that "this time" it is the end. Dwight Pentecost's book, *Things to Come*, is still very relevant! The issues that shake people's faith here are very aptly dealt with in his book. It seems that every verse evokes all sorts of questions. We rarely finish before 2 hours and very often people stay until after midnight. This study is primarily with believers.

There are other avenues of ministry that we are still pursuing, and we trust God to enable us to do these things as we...Make friends and take them to heaven.



Anchor In The Storm

Frank and Salud Benoit, Spain

We keep in touch with the church by the WhatsApp group and put Bible verses, prayer requests, and different video-links to Spanish pastors or ministries that have biblically sound teaching to listen to. Salud meets with some church ladies individually on different days. We try to help the church families to not fear the circumstances we are living in, and to not get discouraged by not being able to hold church services. Millions of Christians around the world face the same circumstances or worse. Please pray for the Puebla church to not fear nor get discouraged while we have no church services right now.

We thank all of you again for praying for us, supporting us, and encouraging us. After a difficult year for many people, God has kept us supported through you all.

Encouragement From A Thank You

John and Anna Bazemore, Italy

Sometimes, the best things in ministry are the little notes of encouragement and thank-you's we receive. It's not that we in ministry always expect or even want big "pats on the back" for what we do. We know that it is by His strength and His wisdom that we can accomplish anything. We give God the glory for all of it...but when notes, letters, emails, and photos come, they make the whole day (or much longer) so much brighter!

"...I simply want to thank you for your

mentorship and spiritual guidance that you offered while I was stationed at Aviano. The times we spent at the cafe spots there in the town of Aviano were truly invaluable and I truly miss those moments... Thank you John and Anna for your continued work for the Kingdom of God. I along with the multitude of other lives you have touched are forever grateful."

We have had two great challenges the last six months. First, the coronavirus pandemic has made it difficult to draw new people to our

church. Though we have been able to meet each week for bible study and Sunday service and have had no problems with distancing, new people seem reluctant to come due to their fear of gathering and/or favoring online services. Even sharing the gospel or information about the church has been harder since the pandemic.

The second challenge is rebuilding our congregation. Due to military relocation we lost most of our families last spring and summer.

Thus we are in a rebuilding mode. The few individuals remaining with us have little opportunity for inviting others due to the pandemic and their job specifics. In other words, they don't have much contact with others.

Because of the pandemic we have had the opportunity to be versatile in our ministry. We began putting sermons online, and engaging more

with others via telephone and messaging.

Please pray for new people to join our church community. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel and information about our church with others. Pray for the families that have relocated. Specifically, that they will find another church body that is biblically sound and community-based.



Running the Race with Endurance

John David and Sara Bennett, Spain

We are amazed at how the past four years have flown by! We are on our home assignment and this means that during these past two months we've had an incredible to-do list delegating ministry responsibilities, downsizing, and preparing our family to cross the ocean once again.

Many times, in missions we discuss the difficulties for missionaries to begin their new life from scratch overseas, but there are also difficulties returning to our hometown. Nothing is ever exactly as you left it. There are many details from small ones like getting a phone plan to big ones like getting health insurance that can be a little overwhelming.

Our Los Barrios Fellowship has been

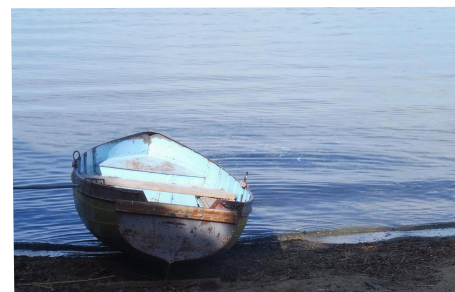
up and running again since June in our home. Our home fellowship has been a source of joy and encouragement to everyone who has been attending these last few months. Our home is full of laughter and sushi each week (a family who attend have a sushi restaurant), which has made Abby a sushi fanatic!

We are working our way, verse-by-verse, through the Book of Acts and it has been a very fruitful time studying together and learning from the early church and seeing how Christ's prophecy in Acts 1:8 comes true during the duration of the book.

Our online campaign to share the Good News with the inhabitants of

the whole surrounding area of Los Barrios reached 4,000 neighbors and had 21 social-media shares. We pray that hearing of the good news will help local people here take steps to trusting Christ.

On Monday, September 14th we resumed our in-person Spotlight Club after taking a summer recess in July. We have a local Spanish lady opening a classroom for us to use while our new ministry center is getting finished.



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