

April Prayer Letter

Dear Friends,

Easter week is a special time in Spain. In a normal year, many people would have practiced solemn songs with their band for months in order to march through town during the processions of *Semana Santa*, the Holy Week. Others would have strengthened their muscles to carry statues representing the life of Christ. Months of preparation lead to a key moment: the Christ upon the cross.

I want to share with you a Spanish song that highlights the attitude of many villages observing traditions in Spain. You can listen to the [song](#) in Spanish here (the song itself ends at 2 minutes, the rest of the video shows pictures of *Semana Santa*).

In the song, people ask for a ladder to get Christ down from the cross. They sing of their desire to serve the crucified Christ. The chorus drew my attention: *“Oh, you are not my song! I can’t sing, nor do I want to sing to that Christ on the cross, but I want to sing to the One who walked on the sea.”*

The song, in my opinion, speaks against outward devotion that glosses over the teachings of Christ. Setting aside the song’s theological flaws, I am saddened to think about many people here that hold onto traditions rather than experience

a meaningful relationship with Christ. I am reminded of how much work we have ahead, and what a wonderful charge it is to tell people about the risen Christ who has power over death.

This season in Spain, we have been living under many restrictions. The news keeps telling us how things are just getting worse. While the gospel brings hope, restrictions and fear continue to make sharing challenging. The pandemic has had a terrible effect on the economy; a lot of businesses have closed in our area. There are many storefronts up for rent, and we are prayerfully considering renting a place to host the church plant and other activities, such as English tutoring. In this way we could deal better with the restrictions and move our online Bible study to in-person meetings.

In our weekly Bible study, we are starting a chapter-by-chapter study of the book of John. We are learning more about Jesus in order to make Him known to the people around us. I have also started a more in-depth discipleship process with Alberto. He has a great desire to be able to teach others, and we are planning on going through materials from The Timothy Initiative.

Prayer Points

- For the transition from online to in-person meeting. We need wisdom to plan this transition well and we need a place that would serve as a good multi-purpose location to be truly inviting for people.

- For our government. First of all for salvation, and for reducing the amount of restrictions we have
- For us. That God would give us opportunities to meet people that are willing to listen. That He would soften the hearts of people towards the gospel and calm their fears with the peace only He can give.
- For Alberto. That his desire of learning would give him many opportunities to tell others about God and this may challenge him to further growth.



Wesley turned one in March, making it a whole year since the pandemic shut down arrived in Spain. Our highlight of a very complicated year!



In March we took a whirlwind trip to the US to see Maddy's brother get married. So nice to see some of our favorite faces!

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel! We couldn't do what we do without God's help and without God's people interceding for our ministry. We wish you a happy Easter as we reflect on the Love of God demonstrated on the Cross and our Resurrected Christ, who has given us a beautiful, restored relationship with God.

All for Jesus!

Victor and Maddy Ramirez

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