



Frank and Salud Benoit  
 Apartado 43  
 41130, Puebla del Río  
 (SEVILLA) Spain  
 Phone: 011-34-95-577-0688

Frank's e-mail: [frasalben@yahoo.com](mailto:frasalben@yahoo.com)  
 Salud's e-mail: [sali\\_ps@hotmail.com](mailto:sali_ps@hotmail.com)

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Dear Friends,

The Gospel of John says, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...*” (John 1:14, NKJV). The incarnation of the eternal Son of God happened at Jesus’ birth. He “*became flesh*”, like us, so that He could “*dwelt among us*” and die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. ***The mystery of the incarnation is part of what makes Christmas so special!*** And it provides our hope for a true Savior for this hurting world, which seems to get more uncontrolled and worse each day as we

see the news. May God help you this Christmas to believe and behold a glimpse of Jesus’ “*glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father*”, and in all of 2023 too!

**Family news.** ***Our biggest news and early Christmas blessing/present is the safe and healthy birth of Julen Ryo Sirazawa Benoit!!!*** God was so good to help Sam, Elisabeth and Julen on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, as her water broke, and they rushed off to the hospital in Granada. Sam called us, & in 15 min. we were packed & driving the 3-hours there. Sam’s parents came from Oporto, Portugal to our house the day before, to wait for the trip to Granada – and it came the very next day!! So, they were also able to be at the hospital waiting with us while Elisabeth gave birth to Julen. We arrived not knowing how soon/long the delivery would take, but just 3 hrs. afterwards, Julen was in the world! Elisabeth was in labor less than 6 hours and had no epidural anaesthesia. Jonathan



and Irene came from Jaén to see them the very next day (now *they are expecting a baby girl* in May!). We’re blessed by God for allowing all of us to be together there.

**Thank you to all who prayed for Elisabeth, Julen, and Sam as he accompanied them the whole time!** Please pray as they adapt to all the changes; & pray for Irene and Jonathan now too!

**Puebla del Río Church.** The church, while still in a rebuilding stage, has seen *a small increase in attendance*. Since October church attendance is up by 4-5 people, most of them profess to know Jesus as Saviour. Some of them have been believers for many years, others for just a few years, and others seem to still not have made a true decision to follow Christ. Now, on Sunday

services, 14-18 people are coming; and Thursday nights prayer service, 5-8 people come. All of them have many, big spiritual needs. **We continue to praise God for Arturo and Elisabeth’s ministry,** helping in so many ways. Elisabeth organized the women to decorate the church for Christmas and is organizing the Christmas program for Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> to focus on the church’s neighbors. We also thank God for the extra support that 3 churches in NM and TX are sending to help the church pay Arturo a larger monthly stipend. Next year will be *the church’s 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary*, so we plan to do a special activity to commemorate God’s faithfulness of keeping the church as a “light” to the Gospel in Puebla del Río, so people to have a chance to hear about Jesus. **Please keep on praying for the “light” to burn brighter in 2023!!**

**Other ministry.** We continue helping in ministries outside of the church. In Nov., Salud was elected as President of the **Ladies Committee** for the FIEIDE churches in Andalucía. As such she will also represent Andalucía in the national committee 3-4 times during the year. I’m now teaching eleven seminary students a class on the OT Prophetic Books (Isaiah to Malachi). And from Jan. 14-29<sup>th</sup> I’ll be helping at an exhibit on the history of the Protestant Reformation in Spain in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, especially in Seville. I’ll be giving the closing conference on Sat. Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. **Please pray for these other ministries** so that God will use our efforts to help them to better reach Spain for Christ.

**We thank all of you who pray for us, our ministry, our family and/or support us financially to serve here.** Thank you too, to all who sent us extra support or a Christmas gift for the end of the year! We’re so blessed and wish you all a ***very blessed and Merry Christmas and a safe and blessed New Year!*** May God help you to “*behold*” Jesus Christ in all “*His glory, the glory of the only begotten*”, incarnate, eternal Son of God!

In Jesus’ love and service, ***Frank and Salud***




**TENTMAKERS Bible Mission**

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