

GIL'S GLEANINGS

December, 2011

Dear Prayer Partners,

The most outstanding word for this year has been CRISIS, and it is not only in the economic world.

There is a crisis of values. Sad to say most young people cannot distinguish between right and wrong. They are taught that everything is relative and many adults have also found themselves swallowed in this same kind of thinking.

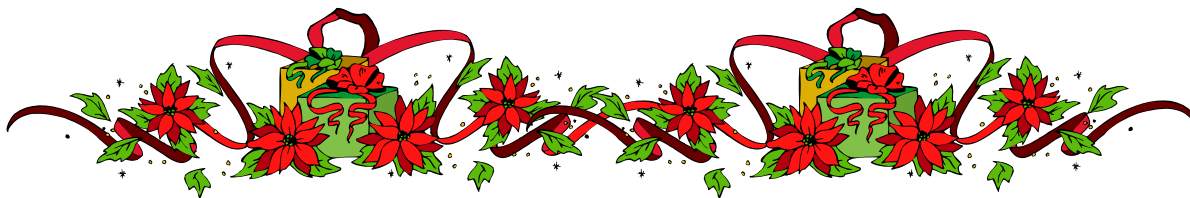
Some folks like Antonia are suffering with a health crisis. Normal eye pressure runs around 16. Hers jumped into the forties, and in the one eye hit 60, and there was nothing that the doctors could do to bring it down. She also has cataracts in both eyes. In the one eye there is a line at the half way mark, black on the bottom, and she can only see on the top. Asuncion also is experiencing a health crisis. Her mother has Alzheimer's and is very grumpy and Asuncion keeps it all inside. She has been in the emergency ward twice in one week, and is also having problems with a hiatus hernia and with stomach acid that burns her throat when she sleeps. Pray for my witness to her. We rejoice that at the moment Paco is not having a health crisis, but is stable.

For some time Spain has been experiencing a political crisis. We recently had elections with the change to a different political party. Unfortunately, under the former government, new rules had been put in for churches, but this resulted in some of the older churches having to close their doors because they do not meet the new requirements. The second Saturday of November, the Evangelical believers here in Barcelona had a manifestation to show that they are not in agreement with this discrimination. The Arabs have all doors open to establish mosques, but the Evangelicals find themselves backed up against a brick wall with a super long list of requirements in order to open new churches.

It is quite evident that there is a work crisis. We are now at 22% unemployment. Veronica, Juan's wife, lost her job. Of the 18 ladies cleaning they dismissed 12 and only kept six. Please pray that she will find another job soon. Juan's lawyer helped her renew her ID card. She was lacking two months of paying social security and thus it looked like she was going to lose her ID card. We rejoice that on November 15th Juan finally got his first ID card. This is a relief for both of us because being illegal he could have been deported and I would have lost Paco's caregiver.

In spite of the spiritual crisis, on December 8-10, there will be an Evangelical Congress held in Terrassa, a village around 20 Kilometers from Barcelona. We will be having a book table at the congress. It is sad to say, but most Spaniards have little interest in spiritual matters. Growing up in a very Catholic country (40 years ago Spain was 98% Roman Catholic) they learned a lot about religion, but nothing about having a relationship with God. Many were hurt in the process and today want nothing to do with God. In spite of the apathy, folks are seeking to evangelize and win the lost to Christ. This year the bookstore has produced 160,000 tracts (80,000 arrived in November and had to be counted into packs of 100).





The monetary crisis is very real here. Many foreigners who came to improve their financial situation have lost their jobs and apartments which they were buying, but continue to owe the bank lots of money, even after returning the apartment to the bank. Many Christian workers the world over are also finding that their support has diminished as folks in the States have lost jobs. There are undertones that the banks here in Spain may freeze all personal banking accounts.

There is also a moral crisis. Many couples live together, there is an increase of homosexuality, and marriages are falling apart.

The last crisis which I want to mention is the Christmas Crisis. Christ has been taken out of Christmas, so one wonders, what is the reason for celebrating? We know that Christ is the reason for the season, but in school programs one cannot even sing about Him. It is almost like the name of Christ is taboo in the society. People want peace, but ignore Him. Only Christ can satisfy the human heart.

In spite of the CRISIS, it is our desire that you will have a most wonderful Christmas and a New Year of 2012 filled with many blessings from the Lord.

Prayer Requests:

1. For clear vision in at least one eye for Antonia.
2. For my witness to Asuncion and for her health needs as she takes care of her mother.
3. Rejoice that Juan is finally legal here in Spain.
4. A job for Veronica, Juan's wife.
5. That the evangelical congress will impact lives for the Lord. For good sales at the book table.
6. We want new blood in the bookstore- please pray that Eduardo will retire in February.
7. That the Lord will use the message in the tracts to draw people to Himself.
8. For support needs, due to death and the economic crisis, am lacking at least \$230.00 monthly support.
9. For the year-end inventory (exactness).
10. For good health as we head into the Christmas season.
11. For the salvation of Spaniards.

Yours in Christ,

Paco and Joyce Gil

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