



PIZZOS TO SPAIN

December 2024 – January 2025

Dear Praying Brethren,

We trust you had a blessed Christmas and a good start to the new year. It is difficult to believe that we are writing this letter in 2025! Praise the Lord for another year of serving Him and awaiting His coming. While we are grateful for the opportunity to do something for the Lord, we are also all right with our plans being “canceled” by His coming. “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

For our family, December and January were a mix of ministry, rest, and time with family and friends. While 2024 was a year filled with many blessings, we also faced many challenges and much exhaustion. To spend more quality time with our kids and enjoy the slower pace of life here around Christmas time, we took some “time off.” It was a much-needed break for our family, enabling us to enter the new year with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement for what lies ahead.

During the holiday season, Anna and the kids baked cookies, and we delivered them with gospel tracts to the neighbors in our building. Those we met face to face received the gift kindly and were grateful for the thoughtfulness. Not everyone was home, so we left the bags on the doorknobs of the apartments that did not answer. The next morning, I found one of the bags hanging from our door with a letter explaining why the gift had been returned. It turns out that some Jehovah's Witnesses live in the building, and, according to the letter, they could not, in good conscience, accept the Christmas-themed gift (including the tracts). While I applaud their faithfulness to their convictions, it is sad to see the strength of the blindness of that false religion. I have seen them in our town more and more lately, and it encourages us to shine brighter **“in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation.”**

I was able to help with the homeless mission again this past December and had the opportunity to preach a short gospel message in Spanish. After preaching, I was passing out some tracts at the entrance of the building and got into a conversation with an older man from Cuba named **Ángel**. When I mentioned that I was part Cuban, he immediately opened up and started talking. Unfortunately, he spent most of the time getting into details of his sinful lifestyle and bemoaning the natural consequences of such a life. After going back and forth a little bit about the gospel and his self-righteousness, I pointedly asked him, “Are you happy?” To my surprise, he said, “Yeah, I’m happy!” At that point, I explained to him that if he were genuinely happy and meant it, there was nothing more I could say or do for him. Despite having spent much of the conversation complaining about the state of life due to his sin, if he is still happy in the pig pen, there is not much I can do to convince him that he does not belong there. Please pray for this man that the seed sown in his heart will not fall by the wayside.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

One of the primary objectives of our being in Spain is to fulfill the above verse. The Lord has very graciously opened the door to do just that with **Joe**, the man from Singapore mentioned in some of our previous letters. Over the past year, he has felt that the Lord is calling him to preach and into the ministry. I have known about his burden for some time now but have waited to mention specifics until he made it public, which he did towards the end of November. Over the past few months, we have started one-on-one classes on the preparation and delivery of sermons to help prepare him for whatever work the Lord may call him to. **Please pray that the Lord will give me**

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wisdom in my part of his preparation for the ministry and that the Lord will bless this man's faithfulness and willingness to serve Him.

As the year ended, the Lord opened an unexpected and exciting door. I had been considering renting an office space for myself instead of only working and studying at home. While discussing this with the pastor, he mentioned that the storefront adjacent to the church was vacant and available for rent. He considered this space a potential solution for the church's lack of room in the children's Sunday school classes and for storage. While the space is too large to serve either purpose alone, combining the uses efficiently would make it functional and affordable. Thus, we decided to collaborate and rent the location, with one room designated as my office/study and the other two allocated for storage and children's Sunday school classes. We began renting it just before Christmas, and I was able to start using the space by mid-January. This arrangement has been incredibly helpful for me in studying and preparing messages with fewer distractions, and it has already significantly aided in structuring my time more effectively. Without your generosity, an opportunity like this would not have been possible, and we want to thank you for your faithful support.

In closing, we want to give special recognition to those who went above and beyond over the holiday season. These extra gifts have been such a blessing and encouragement to our family. While we are thankful for the generous love offerings sent during Christmas, the thought really does count, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you for holding the ropes for us. Thank you for your prayers. And until HE comes and calls us home, may we be found faithful in the fields to which He has sent us.

In His Service,

Justin, Anna, Catalina, Justus, & Anamelia Pizzo

(Page 2)

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