



SPAIN

JUDITH BUCHANAN

c/Peregrinas 17-B° B
E-28280 El Escorial
Madrid
Spain

OMS International

1 Sandileigh Avenue
Manchester M20 3LN

Tel: 0161 283 7992

Fax: 0161 283 8981

Email: info@omsinternational.co.uk

Web: www.omsinternational.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 245124



February 2009

Dear Friend,

Every plan that I make for the future seems to get turned upside down! The result is that I live with the constant uncertainty of what the future holds: an opportunity for looking to the One who is the “rock of refuge, to which I can always go” (Psalm 71:3).

Christmas was very different to the one I had planned! At the beginning of December I fell ill with what turned out to be double pneumonia. I was in hospital for 2 weeks and consequently had to abandon my trip to Britain to spend Christmas with my sister, Jenny, and her family. I was very disappointed, but afterwards I began to realise that ‘plan B’ was not so bad. Cards, gifts and phone calls made *so* much difference, as did the assurance of knowing that I was being upheld by the prayers of many faithful partners. THANK YOU for your part in it all, which I have really appreciated. Friends in Spain also rallied and surrounded me with love – I lost count of the invitations that I had for the Christmas Eve supper (the big event here) and Christmas Day. In the end I thoroughly enjoyed both and somehow managed not to ‘overdo it’! Of course I had the joy of putting up my own Christmas tree, which has many little decorations that have been gifts and carry with them fond memories. New Year was spent, as in previous years, with my friend Carmen and we did our usual walk on January 1st. To my joy I was able to do it, albeit very slowly – I was just finishing antibiotics. Meanwhile, there have been many problems with Iberia flights because of a pilots’ strike. I should have flown with them and so have been grateful for the change of plans...

The doctor has given me the ‘all clear’ as far as the pneumonia is concerned. However, the blood test that was done revealed that my liver enzymes are rising again. It could be because of the 20 days of antibiotics, but the most obvious explanation is that the cancerous nodules in my liver have begun to re-activate. Consequently my next CAT scan has been pulled forward to February 17th and I will get the results on February 26th. If the nodules are seen to be active I will start chemotherapy again immediately afterwards. So ... another plan will have to be changed: I had hoped to attend the OMS conference in Northern Ireland at the end of February, but that is obviously now out of the question. I am sad, for I had wanted to see the many faithful prayer partners that have been praying for me.

I am back to work in the Seminary to try and finish reformatting and editing our oldest course material prior to making it available to students on the internet. Of course I am now behind with it after being off sick during December. Yet another plan changed!

We continue to be encouraged in church. A family that began to visit us in September now never misses. Javier, the father, is a Zoology lecturer in the university in Madrid who has previously never been a church goer. Now he never misses! His wife, Carolina, used to attend church, but has not done so for



Javier & Family



Miriam & Her Class

a number of years. She's as keen as her husband! The two boys, Luke and Hugo, are swelling our Sunday School and keeping their teacher, Miriam, on her toes. Their arrival has meant that the class usually has 11 children and at times has risen to 14. The problem is that the age range is wide: 5 to 9. To reduce the numbers or to reduce the age range means making changes in the other classes. I am trying to see the best way forward for this. Our main limitation is the number of people available to teach classes, since our congregation doesn't have many mature Christians – a nice problem to have!

In a past letter I asked you to pray for Rodrigo, a young man in church, battling with secondary cancer who was put onto chemotherapy in March. His treatment has resulted in his tumours remaining dormant, but otherwise they are unchanged. Now he is having a rest from it since his body can not take much more. Please continue to pray for him and for his wife, Cristina, and toddler, Nicolás. His parents are finding the situation particularly difficult and so their relationship with their son has deteriorated. Only prayer can change this.



Rodrigo & Family

This is turning out to be a COLD winter with hard frosts and occasional snow. I've been feeding the birds in the garden and was thrilled to see a robin arrive to the table. Usually I only get sparrows!! Gradually the garden is coming to life, even though flowers are far behind previous years. My Winter Jasmine had its first flower out for New Year's Day!

With love in Him,