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From Santander to Atlantic Mission  
*November 2021*

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**Our Plan of Action, 2022 - 2025**

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**D**ear Brethren of AM,

In response to your request in your last letter, requesting a summary of our plan of action to present at your meeting on December 7, 2021, we want to send you our organizational short and mid-term plans.

We have two projects that we have already talked about in previous correspondence, but that we would like to explain in greater detail for your consideration.

We have prayed seeking the Lord's direction in this regard. We are well aware that the Lord must be central to all we do, both for the sake of His work and for the people we want to help.

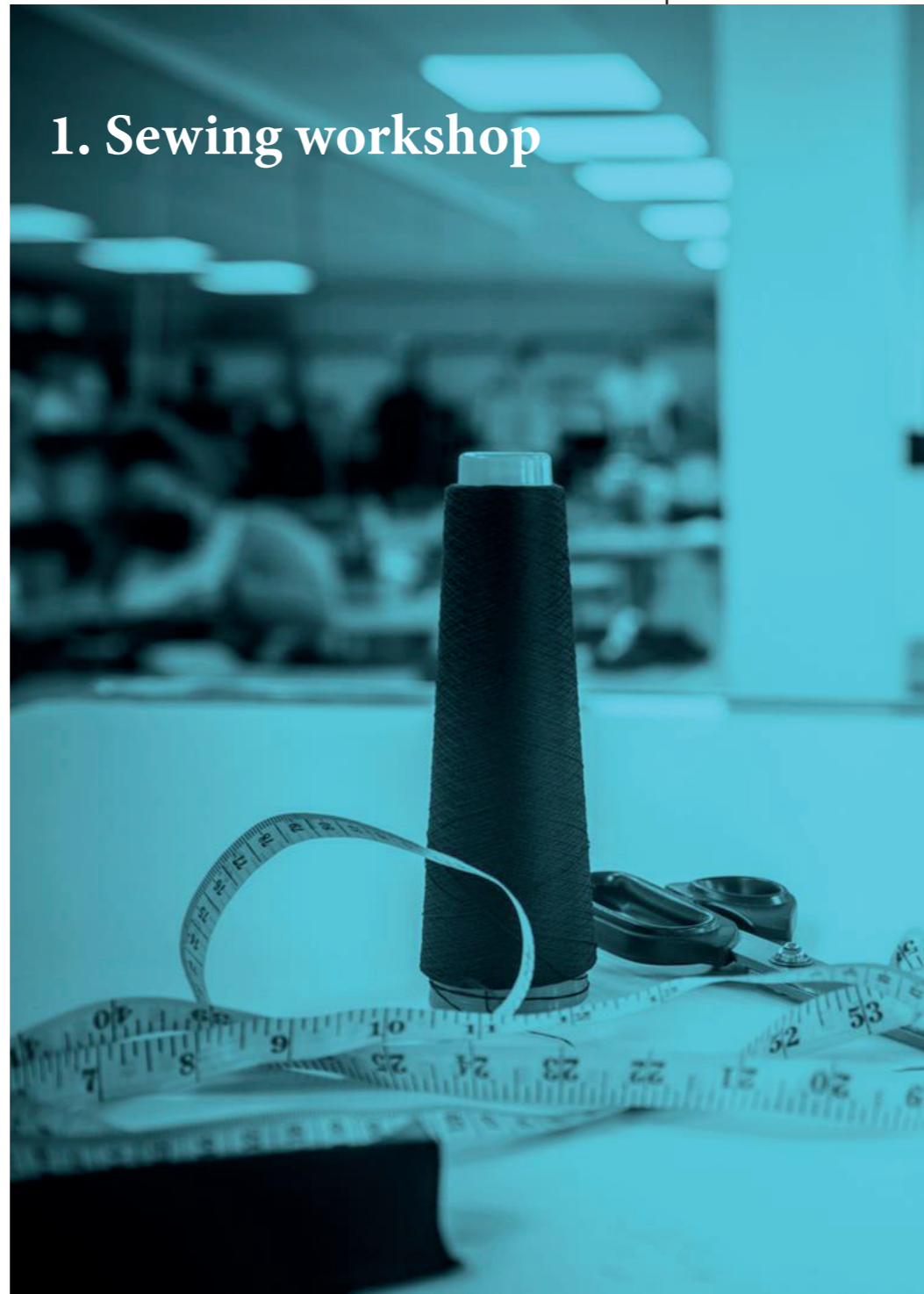
The Association now focuses on helping three specific groups of people: Prisoners and homeless, Women who are victims of sexual exploitation and domestic abuse and refugees. The focus on these three groups has grown over time. Our ultimate goal is to help people in all areas of their lives, which obviously includes people coming to know Jesus through conversion.

The world has changed and so has Spain. **The social work of the Church has given rise to us being known in many areas which were previously unthinkable.** This has meant that the Gospel can be proclaimed and above all that people who would never have approached our Evangelical Churches now do so with a certain normality.

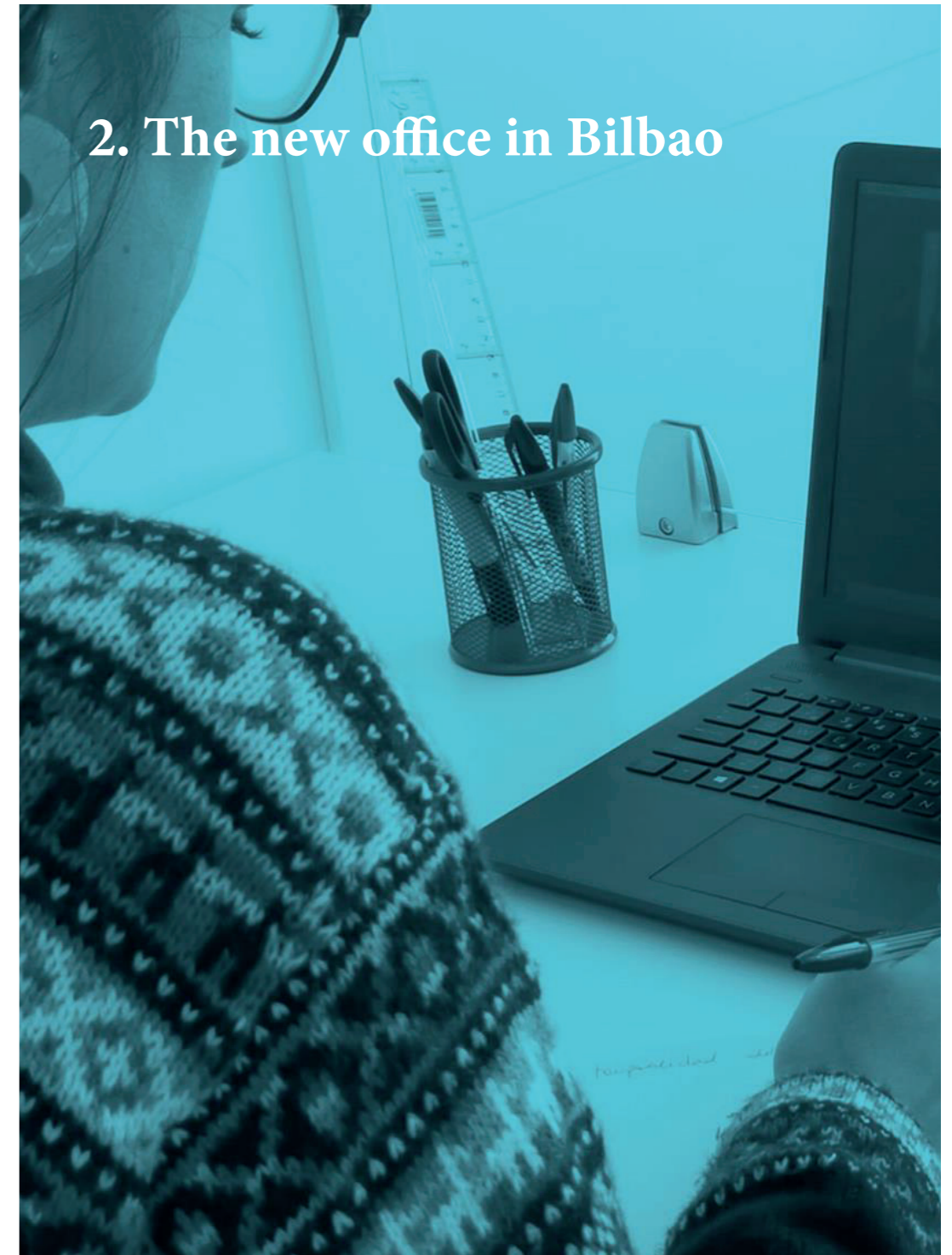
Being evangelical still constitutes a barrier in Spain's Catholic culture, the Catholic religion being seen as something national and patriotic. Social work has opened doors for us and has broken down barriers, facilitating our interaction.

**I will go on to describe the two projects:**

## 1. Sewing workshop



## 2. The new office in Bilbao



# 1. Sewing workshop

## Main objectives of Project:

- a) Training in a professional trade
- b) Finding a job

Our workshop has begun to function, initially as a place of training and, at the same time, as a means for creating jobs.

All the people we serve have come to us with a high degree of vulnerability, without a trade, without any dignity and with great difficulty to get out of this circle.

We continue to think that giving someone a piece of bread is not the same thing as – and far less efficient than - teaching people to be autonomous.

As a pastor, I feel particularly frustrated and saddened when the people we help, and who, in so many cases, receive the Lord and consequently have their lives transformed, may lack the tools needed to be fully fulfilled as people. Prisoners, both men and women, are people who need a second chance. Women trafficked for sexual exploitation or prostitution, some of them with dependent children, are unable to get ahead because they do not have the opportunity to learn a trade.

During the months of the pandemic, we saw this in a much clearer way. For this reason, we decided to pray and seek ways to help. We took risks and prayed actively

waiting for the Lord to open doors.

One of the brothers of our Church, **Raúl De Pablo**, has had a family business manufacturing sportswear called **AUSTRAL** for many years in Santander employing more than 80 full-time workers. We spoke to him and asked him for advice. We decided to rent an area of Austral's facilities which were currently not being used, 500 m2. We adapted the workshop, the electrical installation, restrooms, purchased sewing machines and everything else necessary (we are still in the process of acquiring equipment) and put it into operation on 10 May 2021. The preparation and conditioning of the premises began **at the beginning of December 2020.**

We would not have taken this step without having a workshop leader like **Carlos Orlando**, another brother from the Church who is highly qualified professional in the clothing trade. He is the one who directs training and production at the workshop.

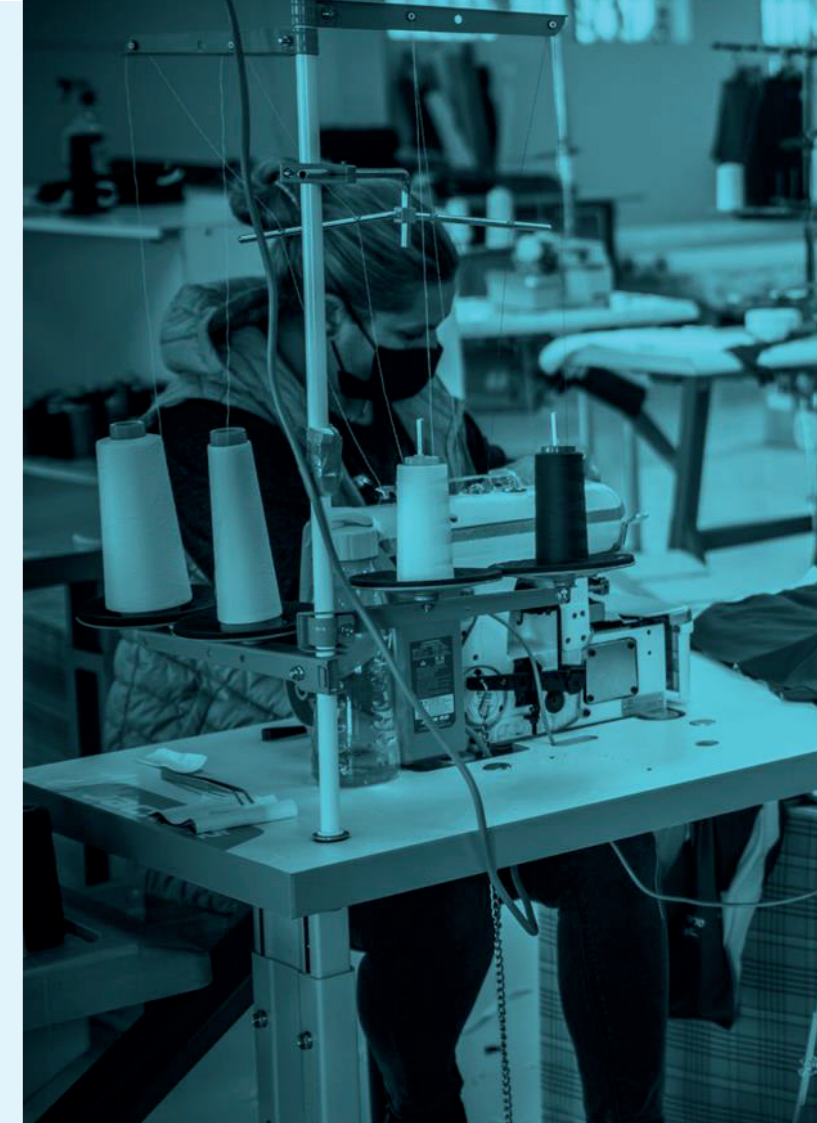
This year two training sessions have taken place – the second is still in progress. **Twenty people in total have participated in the project. Four men and three women have been kept on to continue working in the manufacturing process and others have applied for work with other companies in Santander from the same sector.**

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**“I come to work here delighted with life”**

**Florina** arrived with her family from Romania a few years ago. Her couple is a truck driver and she is a professional in the textile sector. They have two teenage children.

When Florina started to work in the workshop, she has been unemployed for more than a year and a half. The sewing workshop where she was working, just was closed before the pandemic. **“This is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time,”** she said with a smile. In addition, she recognizes feeling so comfortable with his colleagues: **“the people who work with here get along very well, we are very close.”**



**“The sewing workshop is very important to me “**

In December **Amparo** will be twenty years old in Spain. She has been working all her life. As a cleaner, taking care of people and in the hospitality sector. When she enrolled in the first textile training course, she has been unemployed for almost 3 years. A problem in one leg had prevented her from carrying out certain jobs. After the training course in textile manufacturing, she is hired to be part of the production team. **“I would love to stay here for a long time,”** she said.

Amparo lives with her husband and her teenage daughter. As well, she has here several of her brothers who, like her, came from Cali, Colombia some years ago.

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**“I love the work that they are doing here”**

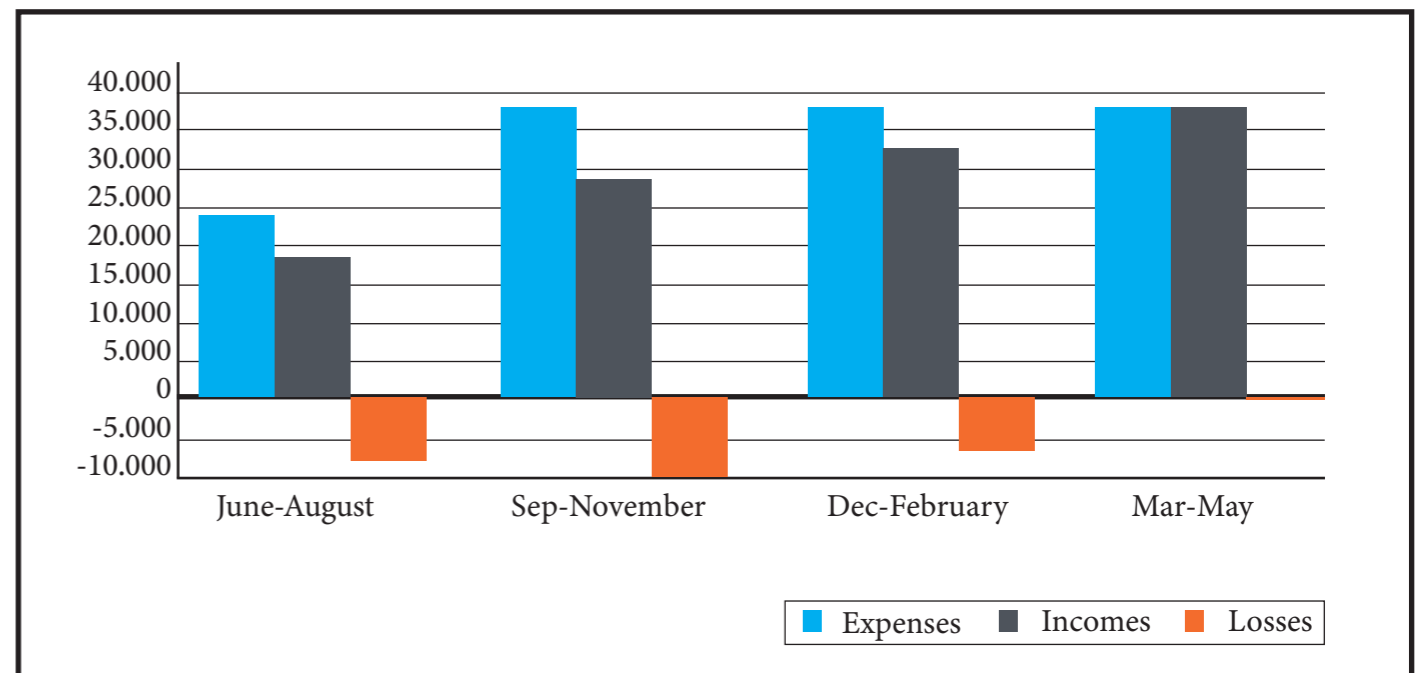
**Astrid** is a couturier as a profession. She was born in Canada, but currently she is living here since many years ago. First, her husband arrived to this place, and sometime later all the family joined to him. Since then, Astrid, her husband and their two children are in Cantabria.

In her native Colombia, she worked in textile factories, but in Spain she always has done it in a clothing arrangement sewing workshops, so when she had the opportunity to return to the industrial manufacturing, she did not hesitate. **“I was very excited to return to industrial production but what caught my attention was the social character of this project.”**



**New Life Textile** is already in production, but it is still in deficit - something which is normal in any business of this type in its infancy. Every month the turnover improves and that makes us feel that we are on the right track. We are confident that in the next semester our turnover will be profitable. But we need to get out of the burden of initial debt.

**In this graph** income derived from the sales of the production are shown in grey. Expenses, such as rental of the premises, supplies, payroll and social security, can be seen in blue. Finally, the progression in the difference between income and expenses is in orange. **We expect that by June 2022 we will start to see positive numbers and leave the initial deficit behind.**



**What is our current need? What do we need help with?**

1. Total investment for the project and its start-up: € 102,000
2. New Life's investment: €22,000
3. Debt of 80,000 Euros.

In the month of April, and as attached with this letter, we sent a presentation detailing the investment expenses of the initial 102,000 euros.

We still have this debt as we have received no economic contribution or subsidy for this project, apart from the €22,000 we invested ourselves. This project was conceived in part to create jobs but also with the firm objective to provide our entity with some means of economic independence in the face of state interference in the intervention we carry out with the people we serve.

## 2. The new office in Bilbao

As a result of the expansion of our work in the neighboring city of Bilbao in 2020 (Bilbao is 100 kms from Santander), we decided to rent a large and well-located premises. This was a real test of our faith but necessary for our Ministry. We have arranged and equipped it for offices and classrooms, as well as a multi-purpose space. It also comes equipped with parking facilities. The owners agreed to a possible purchase option, in a way that we saw as very beneficial to us and which we recognized as a supernatural move of God. We proposed that all the money we pay in monthly rent be deducted from the total purchase price and that a potential sale could take place after five years.

*The total price for sale of the premises with parking facilities: € 225,000*

We have invested in repairs and the purchase of equipment without incurring debts: 24,500€ for repair work plus 7,500€ for equipment.

Each month we pay 1,550€ in rent, deductible from the final purchase price in the event of a sale.

At this time, we have already contributed €21,243.

We have 4 years left to complete the proposed purchase option. We would need you to support us with this expense with a contribution per month, equal to the one which we make ourselves. In this way, we could complete the transaction in 2025 without the need for bank intervention.

Our work in Bilbao, which is one of the largest and most influential cities in the country, is very important. Our son, Julio David, has moved to live in the city to supervise the work on site. He has already started meetings with volunteers, employees and users and they have expressed a lot of interest in studying the Bible. We thank the Lord, who opened this door for us, and hope to see more fruit. The presence of Nueva Vida in Bilbao was a project in our hearts that we have already seen come to fruition, but we are believing in God for far more.

These would be the projects that we would like to present to you for your consideration.

We have dreamed and continue to dream big for the Lord because He has already given us signs of His help and love for His work.

We thank God for your willingness to consider our proposal.

**God bless you!**

