

THE CERNA FAMILY

MISSIONARIES IN EL SALVADOR

June 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

Although it may seem that not much has happened (because of quarantine) over the last couple of months, the Lord always manages to confirm His presence in our church and family. The quarantine restrictions have been very strict here in El Salvador. However, the Lord still allows us to minister to people, and preach His Gospel. Thankfully, it seems like we have been through the worst, and now, we have an idea of when things will come back to normal.

Since the middle of May, the government has allowed only one person to leave each house (once every four days). Because of this strict quarantine, the number of Coronavirus cases has been kept under control. For the most part, the people have been obedient to the strict rules. So far, after three months, there have been less than 2,000 cases. The number of recoveries from the virus is almost as much as the number of new cases for each day. We are thankful that the virus has not ravaged our country, when we consider what it has done in other countries in Latin America.

Just this week, the government has given a schedule on reopening the country in phases. For us as a family, it means we will be in quarantine until July 7. What this means for us as a church is that we will be having normal services around the middle of August. It looks like we have two months to buy a property for the church, since it is not feasible to have services in the house we were using previously. We have all the money that we need to purchase property, and are just praying that the Lord miraculously opens the door for us to begin this next phase of ministry. Please pray that the Lord would multiply what we have, supplying the need as he did for the 5,000 men in John 6.

It is amazing to see that even though we have been in quarantine, God's Word hasn't been (2 Tim. 2:9). We continue to have online services three times per week. By God's Grace, most of our church members have access to the services. The general attitude of the church members has been of excitement in regards to what the Lord will do with our church. In fact, two of our faithful men in our church are getting ready to start an online Bible study for the church members. Please pray for Jose and Mauricio, as they are willing to be used by the Lord to minister His Word.

The Lord has also manifested His presence as I've been out for essential needs. Just this week I got the opportunity to witness to three men as I was at the grocery store and the bank. It would not surprise us if the Lord uses this pandemic to soften the hearts of the people. This country may have the appearance of being "white for the harvest," but the reality is that it is not at all common for a soul to come to faith in Christ. We have been ministering for many years with the expectation that the Lord will open up a door of evangelism (1 Cor.16:9; Rev. 3:8). It could be that the time has come for that to happen.

Our children have been troopers throughout this quarantine. They have not been outside (we have no yard) since March 12, but they have not complained much at all. They have filled their time with reading, puzzles, and quality family time. They seem to understand that this is a situation out of our control, and they are making the best of it. We are thankful for this extended period of quality family time, something that would not have happened under normal circumstances. The school year does not end until October, so it looks like we will finish the school year online. We are praying about schooling options for the 2021 school year. Please pray about this with us, that we would make the best decision for our children's education. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support.

Steve Cerna

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