



For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26

Dear Pastor and brothers of the Church:

We thank God for your prayers and financial support for the Lord's work in the country of Panama. Receive a warm greeting in the name of our Lord.

I want to start by notifying you about the events of the pandemic and the quarantine here in Panama. Since March 19, the government announced quarantine throughout the country and sanitary barriers. Originally it was announced that men could go out according to the last number on their ID, for example, men can go out only Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and only two hours to shop for food, medicine and return. Saturdays were restricted to go out for men because on weekends it was a total curfew for everyone indicating that no one could go out on weekends at any hour, until Monday. Those who had to go out and had permission from their jobs were the only ones able to transit. Likewise, women could only go out Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the same way. Children could not go out, the Ministry of Health recommended that in any case, only one person in the family should go out and do all those obligations. Finally, the government pronounced after 72 days that blocks 1 and 2 could be active. In block two, the places of worship were added, and the Churches had the government's permission to start operating with measures since they opened new hygienic measures that week.

As of June 1, men and women could leave without limited hours, except that there was a curfew from 7 PM until the next day at 5 AM. On weekends there was to be freedom to move around freely. We bought what was required to take the sanitary measures such as thermometers, shoe sanitizer, alcohol gel, we arranged our chairs to have the required distance, we cleaned, we called the members of the Church to meet on Sunday, June 7 after almost three months of curfew; we were very excited to meet that day. Sometime later, the government at 6 PM sent an announcement that on Saturday 6 from 5 PM to Monday 8 to 5 AM there was to be a curfew in the areas of Panama and West Panama.

Seeing that the situation would make it impossible to meet on Sunday by that decree, I decided that we could meet on Saturdays from 12:30 pm to 2 PM and so we did. We had great service with the members of the Church, all of them with their facemasks (because in Panama, it is a national decree to use the facemasks, whoever does not use them will be penalized with fines and community work). Everyone was rejoicing, we had arranged that we would have our meetings on Saturdays at that time, but that same afternoon the MINSA (Ministry of Health) again declared total quarantine on Saturdays and Sundays and we returned to the same system of curfew, where women and men may go out only certain days, as I explained at the beginning. The reason for the decree was that the COVID-19 cases increased in a week in these two provinces; from 130 cases that had been maintained per day, rose to more than 500 cases of daily infections, we are within the two districts with more cases in the whole country.

I thank God that my wife was able to collect \$570 from people who cooperated to send Sister Yahaira to Chiriquí for the children's home to buy them food and some necessities since that home has lost support and they are living by faith. Thank God my wife eventually seeks to raise and support them because the Lord has placed it in her heart.

Thank you for reading this report, we continue to give Bible studies to the brothers via web, and they are doing their part of sharing the gospel with their relatives whom they have contact. God bless you, we appreciate all you do for the work in this country and us. You can support us through Bank of America (California) directly to Current Account # 2711202438 Rodrigo Contreras. Or through the Central Missionary Clearinghouse PO Box 219228 Houston TX 77218-9228

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