



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 Church families,

We pray to the Lord that you are well and that God continues to protect your entire family and congregation from all respiratory infections caused by this contagious virus that spreads throughout the world. I want to start by reporting the things that have happened in Panama in these months. We had our last church service on March 22, until then the restrictions were meetings of up to 50 people maximum. Everything changed a few days later, since they canceled all meetings; Saturdays and Sundays total quarantine. No one can go out those two days unless he is a health worker, police, fireman, etc. During the week, the quarantine restrictions were given according to the last personal identification number; for example, those whose number finished in #1 could go out from 12:30 pm. to 2:30 pm. Only men can go out on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, until they changed Saturday and Sunday of total quarantine for all. Women can go out alone to buy their food and medicine purchases according to their schedule and day as well. But thanks to the Lord the members of the church write to us and express their desires to meet again as before, with much more desire. Some brothers are giving their tithes to the Lord through bank transfers, others make their respective deposits directly, and others have taken their offerings to the house of the sister in charge of making deposits and recording the offerings. The brothers are growing spiritually by hearing preaching and devotionals that we recommend and share with them as well. So there is great encouragement on their part, that comforts us, that when this is all over we will have wonderful services together again if the Lord does not decide to return soon for his church.

On the other hand, in the last weeks of February and the beginning of March, we had many blessings; one of them was the baptism of Sister Virginia. Sister Virginia was meeting with us more than a year ago, she had made her profession of faith, she was very faithful but she had not obeyed in being baptized, but on Sunday March 8 she did it. Sister Virginia had come from an evangelical Church, she was not saved, but God saved her and worked in her heart to take that step. In that same week we meet Sister Rayza and her son on a Wednesday in church. When we arrived at the service they were there and the brother in charge of opening the church doors and his family been there to attend them when they arrived. They found out about our church by searching the internet, that day after the service they were both saved. She works in the health sector and writes a lot to my wife asking for prayer for her protection since many have been infected, but she is very encouraged to follow the Lord. On the other hand, it is also the case of Sister Juliana who was faithful in a few days after being saved, she was one of the first ones that lose her job due to the pandemic, but she was very faithful to the cults with much encouragement, she want to return to the cults again when all this is over.

Something that my wife and I have been doing is praying for the salvation of our son, for a long time we had explained to him and seemed to easily understand and accept what we were explaining to him, but I knew that he had not yet believed. One afternoon on April 13th I took a lot of time with him to explain the gospel to him until I noticed that God was working on his heart and he decided to believe. Now he now about salvation in Christ and that he will go to heaven because he believed in Jesus. For us it is the greatest blessing we could receive in these difficult times. Bilhan is almost six years old and is finishing his K5, God gave him an incredible mind.

In our last Youth meeting from 12 years old, we had more than 50 Young Boys and Girls where more than 12 received Christ as their savior. The whole program was organized and directed by the young people, I only took the invitation after the message of Brother Joel Duque, a young man who has been in our church since he was 8 years old. It was a great blessing to see the fruit of our work during all these years. We have not been able to return to la Chorrera, where the land was donated to us, but thank God there is already a clean part to be able to do our activities when everything is restored. The last time we were there we had some songs and devotional where some of the community people came alone. It was already dark, but a door was left open for what the Lord wants to do there. Thank you for your support and prayer, we need it and for reading this report letter from the Contreras family in Panama.

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