



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Ron and Jackie Cochran

Summer 2020

Dear Friends:

Just as languages are not static, neither are ministries. As situations arise in both arenas, old words and old methods need to be adjusted, as well as adding in some new words and methods. But the goals remain the same: in the area of language, clear, concise communication; and in ministry, the fulfillment of the great commission in the most effective manner possible. During these months of shutdown and social distancing, the Lord has allowed us to continue ministering, although in different ways, and has stretched us to reach into areas of communication we hadn't used much before. Broadcasting weekly services is an area we weren't well equipped to enter, but thanks to technologically savvy coworkers, we have been able to broadcast Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night services since mid-March when our shutdown began here in Hermosillo. Please pray that the Lord will continue to use the broadcasted services to reach souls for His kingdom.

Although our travel has been greatly limited, we have been able to visit other ministries online and minister in conferences both here in Hermosillo as well as in Nogales, Monterrey, and Phoenix. Our virtual youth meetings have included a variety of speakers from our church, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and other parts of Mexico. Plans for youth camp also had to change to virtual camps, and our young people were able to participate in camps hosted by churches in Costa Rica and Aguas Calientes, Mexico.

In June and early July Ron's mom suffered a series of heart attacks, and in the early hours of July 13 the Lord called her home to be with Him. Thankfully, we were able to arrive in time to visit with her in the hospital, and two of our children, Ben, and Rachel, and Rachel's husband Gabriel, were also able to make the trip to Virginia to see Grandma one last time. Ron and his siblings were with her in her last hours here on earth, and Ron was able to preach at both her funeral service and burial. The Lord gave us several opportunities to share the gospel once again with family members and friends. After the funeral we traveled south to spend a few days in Georgia with Jon and his family and in South Carolina with Rachel's family. A huge thanks to all of you who helped us in our trip, both with prayers and offerings.

Sonora was in the red-light phase of the pandemic from mid-March until the second week of August. At that time, it changed to orange, so we were able to begin opening up services to 30% of the church's capacity (around 70 people), with all the protocols in place but without being able to offer a nursery or children's classes. At the end of August, the light turned to yellow, so we can now have around 100 people present. We now have more freedom to visit contacts and have begun open-air Bible clubs.

The government's decision to allow only virtual classes this semester has hit private schools hard; the department of education is airing classes on television as well as teachers giving semi-weekly classes online. Many parents are suffering financially because of the shutdown of non-essential businesses, and

as a result our Christian school has had a big drop in the number of students enrolled. Please pray that the Lord will provide monthly what we are lacking in necessary funds to operate and that we will be able to continue this ministry. Ebenezer Bible College and Seminary is operating on a hybrid system; half of our full-time students are virtual, and half are at the College, so all classes and chapel services are being aired via Zoom. Turning in papers, projects, quizzes, and tests has required both teachers and students to learn how to work on an online platform. We thank the Lord for the 40 full-time students He has sent us this year (as well as a good number part-time) and ask for your prayers for our virtual students as they deal with the challenges of online learning. We have 13 new students this year, nine of whom are in the dorms, and we ask for your prayers for each as they adjust and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please pray especially for our mission in Molino de Camou; we have lost our worker there and need to find a replacement. Please pray also for the Isaac Luna family; their deputation came to a standstill with the shutdown, and once the border opens, they will continue with their plans of visiting Hispanic works in the States as well as Mexico in order to head to Africa. We are thankful for the tremendous blessing they have been to our church these last few months, participating in the preaching, directing, music, and technical aspects of broadcasting.

Thank you once again for your faithful prayers and support of the ministry here; as each day brings new challenges to deal with, our thanks go up to God for our faithful brethren who continue to participate in the ministry God has called us to in Mexico.

In Christ in Mexico,

Ron and Jackie Cochran