



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Ron and Jackie Cochran

February-April 2020

Dear Friends,

Whenever I see or hear about a car accident, I am reminded how unpredictable life can be. Surely those people involved never thought their day—or perhaps their life—was going to end as it did. As we started 2020, many people around the world had plans for this year, and for most, a pandemic did not form part of our thinking. Just as an accident can change one's life and plans permanently, the same thing appears to be happening worldwide, with changes coming that may or may not be permanent or foreseeable. But for the true believer, this is not a cause for worry, because we know that we serve a God who does not change. Malachi 3:6a reminds us, "For I am the Lord, I change not...." Hebrews 13:8 encourages and calms us by reiterating that truth: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Because of our great God, we can face these days with peace, joy, and hope, knowing He does all things well, for His glory and our good.

We are thankful that the Lord allowed us to make our planned trips for February and March. The family conferences in February were a great blessing to us and resulted in good responses in the churches where the Lord allowed us to minister, first in San Quintin, Baja California, and then in two churches in Costa Rica. While it was touch and go if we would be able to travel to Greenville for the mission board annual meeting scheduled for early March, the Lord allowed us to make the trip. All of our children showed up during that week to participate in a surprise celebration of the 35 years the Lord has allowed us to be a part of MGMI, and we are so thankful, not only for the wonderful surprise and fellowship, but also for the encouraging and edifying sessions we were able to attend.

In February and March we attended three funerals. On February 27, the son of Hilda, the lady in whose house the mission in Tres Reynas began, died in his sleep. The Lord allowed me to preach several funeral services to the man's unsaved children and grandchildren. Several days later, on Tuesday, March 3, San Juana de Sandoval, a member of our church, died suddenly, and once again we held services in both the funeral home and cemetery. That same day, the father of Dulce, a new convert, died, and so we left one funeral home to go to another to minister to Dulce. After our return from Greenville, another member, Leonor Amaya, died after a long and painful battle with pancreatic cancer. We were able to hold services for her despite the quarantine because the family held the wake and services in her backyard. Please pray for these families and for the salvation of the unsaved who heard the gospel preached in the funeral services.

Here in Hermosillo we are still in the Stay-At-Home stage, with tight restrictions on meetings, what businesses can or cannot be open, who can work, and how many people can be in the car (one, unless you are a taxi or an Uber). School children are still at home, doing classes online, and we pastors are transmitting services online. Instead of sending our Bible college and seminary students home in March, we opted to place them on early quarantine (mid-March), cancel spring break as well as the end-of-the-year activities, and finish the school year by April 30. Part of that decision was based on the fact that some students don't have access to adequate internet service to be able to continue their classes at home, and part on our inability to go online immediately. By the end of March,

the teachers who live off-campus were set up to teach via Zoom, while those who live on campus were able to continue in the classrooms in small groups. Praise the Lord, none of our students, faculty or staff have gotten sick with Covid-19, and the same has been true of our church family. Please pray for our students as they take their final exams April 27-30 and head home beginning April 30.

Because of the quarantine, we had to cancel our annual Bible conference scheduled for April 14-17. Even though we were not able to invite visitors to hear the gospel, God has chosen to widen the audience receiving His Word by forcing us to learn how to use technology to transmit audio and video online, reaching people we normally wouldn't have the opportunity to reach. Our Saturday morning men's meeting is now being held on Zoom, and the monthly ladies meeting has transformed into a weekly ladies Bible study, also on Zoom. Another point of praise is for the many sermons and conferences available on Facebook and YouTube that pastors of like faith and practice have been posting during these days of not being able to minister in person to the brethren!

As the panorama changes from day to day, our plans must remain flexible to adjust to what the government determines to be the next step as well as the time frame in which those steps will take place. Students are supposed to be able to return to classes in June, but that could change depending on how the pandemic plays out in the next days and weeks. That same uncertainty affects our summer plans; this year we were scheduled to be out visiting churches for two months, but at this point, we aren't sure what will be allowed as far as church services in the States by June or July. Please pray for God's clear guidance as to His will for our lives.

As we continue living with the changes brought to our lives by this pandemic, may our focus be on our all-powerful, unchangeable God who loves us, protects us, provides for us, and cares for us every moment of our lives. May this be a time of growth in grace and in knowledge of our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please pray for wisdom and discernment going forward in our church and at the Bible college and seminary. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

Ron and Jackie Cochran