

The Rodriguez' in Panama



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Dear Pastor & Friends,

Here is what has been going on with the Family Rodriguez in Panama:

Praise the Lord we are all in good health. Like so many others, we have been in quarantine since the beginning of March. The quarantine here is pretty strict. We are only permitted outside the house to buy food and for any medical reasons. We have certain days and certain times when we are permitted to go depending on gender and the last number of our id number. We are only allowed two hours. Face masks are mandatory to go anywhere outside of our house. We thank our God for keeping us healthy so far and for providing for our needs, and even some wants.

Many of our church members do not have internet access nor do they have access to a smart phone, but everyone has access to a radio. I wanted a way to ensure that everyone in our congregation would have a way to listen to our Sunday service message. A local radio station has given us a very good rate for one hour every Sunday. The local station reaches three states and the southern part of Costa Rica. It is a secular station. Every Sunday for one hour a gospel message is broadcasted as well as Christian music to fill whatever remaining time that was not used during the message. Just this week I was actually wondering if the message was going anywhere when I received a message from a lady letting me know that she came to our area to visit her grandfather and he had the radio tuned into this station. She heard the message and reached out to us asking us to pray for her, her pregnancy and her family. Praise the Lord that God's word does not return void. Please pray for this outreach. God has so graciously provided the cost thus far and, Lord-willing, as He provides, we will continue to broadcast the Gospel. Please pray for listening ears and for lives to be saved and changed for His glory. Aside from the radio station, we are also live streaming our messages on facebook, Instagram, and You tube. The messages are also available on spotify. I received a phone call from someone who listened to one of my messages on spotify. He had some questions and just wanted to talk. What a blessing. Although other doors have closed to the way we would usually preach the gospel, other doors have opened. May God continue to work in hearts and lives to those who hear His message.

A couple of weeks into the quarantine, live-streaming my message, a brother in our church wrote me to let me know that his son, a policeman,

has been placed in quarantine due to possible exposure to the virus. We put him on our prayer list. His son had been in our church once. He was in quarantine and the virus got him thinking about his salvation. He told his dad that he wanted to make sure he was saved. His dad reached out to me and I sent him a video of the Gospel. We started communicating. Praise the Lord, he asked Jesus to be his Lord and Saviour. Although he lives close by us, he is currently posted seven hours away. We are in communication and he attends, when he can, a Bible study that I started doing via zoom two times a week. Please pray for his protection and spiritual growth. His name is Evimiro Gutierrez Jr.

People are struggling all over. Some of our own people are struggling. God provided for us to be able to put together some groceries for some of those in need around us. Please pray for a widow lady who has four children. She relied on selling tamales for her income and now she can't even do that. Please pray for the guy who works at the mechanic shop running errands but that business is shut down right now and therefore he's out of work and no income for his family of four. Please pray for others who have similar stories as to those above. Not only are those just two examples of people in our church, but those people are all over...here in Panama, in the states, everywhere.

Your servants in Christ,

The Rodriguez Family