



## The Ortega's Marching Orders

March 2019

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### ***Rejoice with us; We've made it to 30!***

This past February 17, our dear Maranatha Church celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> year ministry with them. Wow! I don't know where time has flown us by, but we really enjoyed recalling past events through those years, including our ups and the downs. We saw presentations, people singing, others giving God glory because of these 3 decades of ministry. What a treat!



We also heard from some of you as your cards and greetings were read out before the congregation. I must say that the most glorious surprise was to suddenly and without announcement see Paul and Patricia Dye walk in our church on that very day. Mary and I laughed and wept simultaneously as we saw them walking in, totally incredulous of the sight. They led my dear wife to the Lord back and 1978 in her native Panama. They baptized her in Colombia and he married us

here in Texas in 1986. We really enjoyed seen them with us. Thank you, Paul and Pat, for giving us the best Sunday celebration! We also appreciate RMBC for donating Bibles to the Gideons on our behalf. "Our" ministry is much more than just about two people. Thanks you so very much for being part of this vital team. Some of you have been part of us from the moment we started a family, to Mary's cancer, to losing both of my sisters and, my nephew and my father, as well as Mary's father. You have been through our happiness and sorrow, our good and bad health issues, as well as our needs and our dreams. Thank you! Of course, we still hope for more productive years for the Kingdom, not only in Maranatha, but also in Cuba and alongside the Mexican border. So, we continue to invite you to "walk" with us, or rather, to march on with us, because God has not given up on us yet.

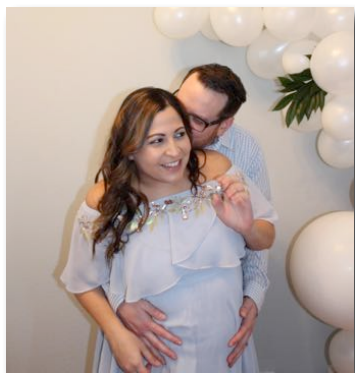
### **Health and Healing**

Let me go on to other matters. Some of you knew that I was planning a trip to Cuba last month. However, since October of last year, Mary has been suffering from severe and constant headaches. After serious consideration and prayer, and not having God's peace to go through with my plans, I called it off. Unfortunately, after many and costly medical research studies conducted, we do not exactly know the source of such discomforts; we only know of the severity and

continuity of them. My wife's primary physician has concluded that the multiple exams point toward a special type of migraine headache, where light and/or sound are not primary factors, since they do not necessarily affect her. She is currently on a special type of medication and we hope and pray that these work, where many others have definitely failed. I praise God for her, as she is quick to get up in the morning to accomplish as much as she possibly can before her level of energy suddenly drops or her headaches increase. ~ Please **pray** for her, that the Lord would give her grace day by day and that her pain would be completely gone and for her to continue doing what she loves, serving God right by me. ~ While you're at it, **pray** that the Lord would grant us the finances to go to Panama to visit her aged mother. ~ **Pray** for Cuba, as I'm still planning two trips this year, and one to Ecuador in July. As usual, finances and timing are of essence.

### Sarai, Priscilla and Sylvia - Our Three Girls

Sarai, our first-born, is not doing so well. As you know, a year ago she was diagnosed with lupus and fibromyalgia. We went to visit her in San Antonio a few days ago and to deliver some needed meds. Additionally, she is in quite a bit of pain due to problems with her right kidney. Yes, the questions of "Where is God?" or "Why won't He heal me?" have come up recently. We value your vital **prayer** support to help her go through this harsh experience, even as we ourselves undergo our own trials.



Priscilla and Brad are doing quite well while they expect their first baby, due on April 19. ~ Please also **pray** that everything goes well with them.

Sylvia, the Lord willing, will finish her senior year on June 1. ~ Please continue **praying** for her health and also for college. She is seriously considering attending a local university for her first 2 years, and then moving to Dallas with Brad and Priscilla to finish her studies there.

Before I finish, let me just say how grateful we are with those of you, my dear friends and supporters, who serve the Lord alongside us. 32 years in marriage and 30 in ministry are not a matter of pure coincidence or an effort of only two people. Thank you for being such key partners in our marriage and in our ministry!

***Marching*** on with eternally grateful hearts,

*Franc & Mary Ortega*

Psalms 48:14

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