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The Ortega April 2020 Newsletter

Dearest friends, in the midst of the current pandemic that the world is experiencing, I'm praying that you are doing well, resting in the precious and loving arms of our God. How appropriate Psalms 46:10 becomes in our times: *"Be still and know that I am God!"*

Although our plans to go to Panama were postponed due to coronavirus, we were able to spend some quality days with Sarai in San Antonio, watching our church Easter Sunday service online, doing various chores around the house, cooking, eating, talking and simply enjoying our time with her. This was something that we had not done in years, since she left for college at age 18, over 13 years ago. This was a complete delight for all 3 of us, especially as she continues to deal with her physical challenges, even more so since Hydroxychloroquine, her lupus medication is pretty much off the market in order to develop an antiviral for COVID-19.



We also went up to Flower Mound, near Dallas, to spend around 10 days with Priscilla, Brad, little Ollie and Sylvia. In fact, we celebrated our precious grandbaby's first B'day. What a great day that was! We also spent some very good and productive days with them, doing yard work, sanding, priming and painting kitchen cabinets. I've also invested good quality time to reflect, to read and to reenergize in my relationship to the Lord, in our marriage and in our ministry.

We currently find ourselves back in McAllen. Although our Sabbatical ends at the end of May and are not due back in ministry until June 1, we decided to return to McAllen to take care of some important maintenance challenges at home, mainly our old A/C condenser over flooded and we have water damage in our living room ceiling and some walls. We also made this decision to save the remaining 3 weeks for a more opportune time to go to Panama and visit Mary's ill mother, which was one of the primary reasons for our Sabbatical. Because of the pandemic, we also had to cancel our trips to go to Cuba over the summer, as well as to Ecuador. God is very much in control, even of our many challenges and changes and is presenting us with an opportunity to be still and know that He is God.

Thank you so much for your vital prayers and support to keep us serving the Lord in McAllen, Cuba and in Ecuador.

Eternally grateful,
Franc & Mary Ortega