



The Ortega's 2020 Thanksgiving Newsletter

This year's Thanksgiving should be quite a different experience for most of us. For one, our church will not be having our annual Thanksgiving dinner this coming Sunday. We will surely miss this wonderful experience. As a clan, all Ortegas, plus their extended two younger generations, will not be getting together on Thanksgiving Day, either. Those in other cities will have to remain there, with their closest immediate family members. All that said, there are many other reasons to give thanks and to share about. We choose gratitude and joy!

A few weeks ago, I had to rush my dear wife to the hospital when her blood pressure suddenly reached 200! This was definitely NOT a good experience. In fact, this happened when she was involved in our group Bible study via Zoom that she had to bail out so I could take her to ER. We went in at around 9 pm and she was immediately treated. After several exams and treatments, she was stabilized and released at around 2 am. Me? Well, I had to stay put outside in the car. She got some pretty strict orders from the doctor – No more tobacco, alcohol, or drugs of any kind! I mean, what will she do for fun now, right? However, she continues with some health challenges, mainly chronic pain. She has to slow down her pace a bit. It is so good to have her home and I am very grateful for her life.

Sarai continues to deal with her Lupus and Fibromyalgia condition. Without a job and any kind of medical insurance, she has depleted all of her funds and finds herself in a very uncomfortable situation in many different ways. She has put in a great deal of effort to find employment from home, but after over 100 applications and/or interviews, she has been most unsuccessful. On our last visit, she quietly asked us to sit down and hear her out. She openly expressed how disappointed, dissatisfied, and confused she is about her life. She went on for a while and we simply listened. At the end, she acknowledged that God is God and she has no option but to wait on Him. Before she was finished, she prayed a very beautiful prayer for herself and for us, thanking God for being God and being in charge, even when she did not understand or appreciate her condition. We are grateful for that change in her head and heart. Please pray for employment from home and medical insurance.

Sylvia is currently attending a local university, though her classes are online. She has found a part-time job and is moving on in life. Her Loeys-Dietz syndrome is there, and we are praying that her aorta will not continue to further dilate. We are very grateful for God's mercy over her.

Brad, Priscilla and Ollie are pretty much our next-door neighbors for the next few months, and we thoroughly enjoy their company, especially our precious Ollie who is our first and only grandbaby. We get to have him Monday – Wednesday.

May you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Day! Do not worry about the things you don't have or the things you can't change. Be grateful for the things you do have and enjoy them. The best way to defeat sadness, depression, hatred and even loneliness is having a grateful attitude and action.

With Grateful Hearts...
Franc & Mary Ortega
Happy Thanksgiving!

