



The Ortega's Summer 2022 Newsletter

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Dear friends and prayer warriors:

Some months ago I wrote to you concerning some health issues that I was dealing with in my heart, specifically with a calcified bicuspid aortic valve. Because of this, I have been moving extremely slow, have problems breathing, get dizzy very easily and feel extremely tired most of the time. I've had many tests done and have visited a few doctors in several settings. After attending all exams and consulting with all doctors and waiting for over two months, I come to find out that due to insurance, medical and hospital politics, I can't have my much needed procedure done in McAllen. I've been sent to San Antonio to get taken care of there. Mary and I drove there on August 9 and met with two cardiologists. After a very lengthy and thorough meeting, I agreed to undergo a TAVR procedure (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement). I am scheduled to undergo this surgery on the 25th of this month. According to the cardiologist, this is a low-risk minimal invasive approach (and a way around open-heart surgery, which is much more painful and longer to recover from). I am told that from start to finish, this 3 hour-long procedure starts in my groin and through a catheter I will be implanted an Edwards SAPIEN XT to replace my deficient bicuspid aortic valve. These past few months has been very challenging and limiting due to so many restrictions, problems regulating my blood pressure, not to mention a trip to the ER on a Sunday, of all days. Like, that is the only day a pastor works, you know! The leadership of our Maranatha church have been so very gracious in allowing me time deal with this health situation of mine.

Despite everything, I'm very grateful for so many things: 1. For Pastor Abisai Ahumada has been filling in at the podium and other ministry opportunities. 2. For our Facilitators, who have been caring for our Life Groups, these being several Bible study groups in about 5 surrounding cities, as well as Sunday School. 3. For a Facilitators' retreat, to



A special retreat with our beloved Facilitators and their children.

express our gratitude over their hard labor of love. 4. For all of you who have so faithfully supported us over the years, calling, texting, giving and loving us in diverse ways. Thank you!

I'm praying for a successful procedure on the 25th, so I may be back to full-time ministry. I long to reconnect with our Cuba ministry, as well as with so many pastors from Ecuador. You may

recall that I had to cancel both trips I had planned since last year to take care of my health issues. I am so very grateful to be part of Tentmakers Bible Mission, good and godly people who totally support my dual role as a Maranatha pastor and also visiting these two mission fields where the need is so very great and where the LORD is doing amazing things.

Please pray for the cardiologists who are going to work on my heart on the 25th of this month. Please add my dear wife on your prayer list, as she has had to literally carry quite a load on these past few weeks.

I will somehow try to briefly communicate with you after the surgery. Until then, may our gracious God continue to bless your life, family and ministry.

With much love and gratitude
Franc & Mary Ortega



Due to my heart condition, we could not be in Austin for the birth of our second grandbaby – Levi Amado (Beloved) a month ago. So, Brad and Priscilla came down to visit us in McAllen, bringing us 3 year-old Ollie and the newborn. It was such a great time with all four of them.



Mary gets to hold little Levi while I play with Ollie outside. Those were very special days.