

Greetings from Karl and Sue Peterson - July 2020

GRACIAS for your persistence - it is greatly appreciated. These are certainly wild times that we have not lived before and we are grateful to know that you remember us in prayer. It is so important. WE are currently fine and healthy. I spent the first month of the pandemic in bed with some strange viral respiratory issues and am so happy to be breathing normally and back to normal energy levels. It was a scary time as COVID information was new and at time contradictory. I was on bed rest and taking all the COVID precautions and remedies. Our oldest son was working at Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago with COVID patients. When his weekly test came back POSITIVE, we thanked God that he was asymptomatic and only needed to do a two-week self- quarantine in his apartment. He is now fully recovered, gone back to work only to be furloughed but was hired by Lowe's last Friday to start work this week. God is faithful and we pray MUCH!!! Our youngest son Jonathan is feeling "trapped at home with my parents" and cannot wait for the clearance to be able to see friends again- following new health safety protocols of course. He graduated from high school last fall and is on "stand by" for what is next. He would like to go to the USA and work to save money for a car and for further schooling. Prayers appreciated.

Three months ago, the word ZOOM was an application that my husband Karl used to teach seminary classes online to pre-ordination candidates in the Semianrio Teologico del Pacto since our return to ministry for our sixth term in Mexico. I am now more than a novice on how to use it and have been blessed to meet with women for mini- retreats, MAEM meetings for strategic planning, MAEM self-care and spiritual direction, leadership meetings, weekly prayer times and care, as Mother's Day event, several surprise virtual birthday celebrations as well as Bridal Shower!!!! It is amazing to see the Holy spirit is moving in and among us in a real way even though our connection is virtual. Karl and I are also working on stewardship interactive video series called "A Matter of the Heart" as part of the IEMP National Response to economic issues and needs due to the COVID pandemic in Mexico. What a joy to work with national leaders and see the team work as well as the participation. God is so good. Karl continues to teach online, meet with seminary committee as they contemplate future courses and alliances with other evangelical theological groups in Mexico. He is also our Mexico Staff country Coordinator and treasurer. He continues to promote VITALITY in the IEMP now looking for new ways to connect with technology. He assists pastors in learning more about how to use the different platforms to stay in contact with their faith family.

We now have friends who have tested positive to COVID and are hospitalized. COVID cases in Mexico continues to rise and so we shelter in place and look to serve others in support both tangibly and virtually. Please lift the Mexican people and the needs to healthy leadership. Our churches are also facing hard decisions about future meeting opportunities and the fact that numbers continue to increase because people are not social distancing nor following health guidelines.

I hope that this gives you a little window into our lives and ministry at this time. We have felt God's care and Presence in these months are so blessed to belong to the Covenant Family of

Faith on both sides of the border. May God bless and guide you at RCC in these unprecedented times as well. He is faithful!!!

Please greet our Family of Faith at RCC! We remember our many visits with you over the years and your kind hospitality. A “special greetings” the “kids in the balcony” who were willing to help me out with the children’s Mission Sermon on our last visit in 2016. Great kids!