

Dear friends and family,

It has been a long, weird winter. The weather hasn't really been that bad. In fact, although we still are in drought, we got some much-needed rain! We are now about to enter spring; the wild poppies are crazily blooming along the roads, which has always been a sign that Spring is around the corner.

However, other things got really weird here this winter, as I'm sure it has been for the rest of you during summer in the northern hemisphere. We have been totally sheltering at home. In fact, I call it "house arrest". Because we are considered high risk because of age and other medical factors, our children asked us to stay home and stay healthy, so we are respecting their requests and haven't been out since March 20.

Zoom is another area which seems weird this year. We have our church prayer time each night from 9:00 to 9:30 as well as our Sunday morning services over Zoom. It seems "weird" that we now "get together" and pray more since we are apart than we ever did when we were free to come and go. God surely knows how to produce good from what we would consider bad! John and I have also been leading a small group on Tuesday evenings on zoom, John does virtual meetings most every day of the week in order to move forward with CEMIPRE, MTW meetings, and one-on-one discipleship as well as a myriad of other jobs.

The "weirdest" and maybe the most difficult thing has been not being able to see our kids and grandchildren. At first, they could come and play in our back yard while we sat on our porch (social distancing) but since they all now live in a city that is in quarantine, we can only visit on...you guessed it...Zoom. (Well, we also call and use face time and whatsapp, but we occasionally have a Zoom meal together, or celebrate Zoom birthdays.) It's all just WEIRD.

But, in the midst of weirdness, there is peace and a growing realization that our joy and security do not depend on things being "normal", but on our sure and faithful Savior!

I think maybe CEMIPRE has been the hardest hit in our ministry. The blind, low vision and newly blinded participants eagerly looked forward to the activities there during the week. For many of them it was the only socialization they received, and CERTAINLY the place where they knew they could be themselves and be totally accepted. The administrator and the occupational therapist have done a good job of inventing activities that could be done over whatsapp (a messaging app which is very popular here). One week they did a "radio" program, a newsy informative and fun event where many of the "news" reports were invented to joke and tease and lift everyone's spirits. On a more serious note, John calls people to check on them, counsel them and share the gospel with them.

We look forward to the lifting of the COVID restrictions so life can go back to normal, whatever that may mean in the future. Please pray that CEMIPRE may be able to function normally soon. At this point there is no end in sight, and I believe that makes it harder to be patient.

Yet life does find a way to go on! We are so grateful and overjoyed for the birth of our newest granddaughter Alicia Belle Jaramillo Rug, who was born on Sept 12 at just 35 weeks gestation. She was born beautiful and healthy, although rather small for a Rug baby! She weighed in at just 6 lbs 4 ounces and was 18 ½” long. Mother and baby are both doing well and are home from the hospital. We praise the Lord for his protection and care over them both.



Please pray:

- That the Lord would continue to use us for His glory even in “weird” times.
- That the Grottons, a young family that is currently in Santiago for language school and who were scheduled to move here to help with CEMIPRE, would soon be able to find a home that meets their needs and move here despite the restrictions and red tape involved.
- That Alicia would continue to grow safe and strong, and that she would know Jesus from an early age. Please pray for her parents and her big brother as they adapt to this new life.
- That the Lord would continue to provide for our ministry here. Although we are not at a dangerously low level in our support account, we have seen a downward trend which is worrying.
- We are scheduled to return to the USA in January. Please pray that the Lord would give us wisdom to figure out all the details that COVID has complicated!

We are so grateful for your love, prayers and financial support. So many of you have been with us since the beginning of our ministry in Chile 34 years ago. We know we are here because of God’s mercy and your sacrificial giving. We are overwhelmed by God’s faithfulness as well as yours! Thank you!

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