

COVID-19 Update & Impact at La Promesa School, the city of Chimaltenango and the country of Guatemala.

written by: Pastor Erica, La Promesa School & Odres Nuevos Church

edited by: Devon Ragoonath, Ambassador of Matthew2540

"I greet you in the love of the Lord trusting that God's protection is over your lives and families. Below is a report on how things have been at our church, school and in Guatemala during these times

Since April 13th, 2020, students have been prohibited from going to school and there is a curfew from 4pm-4am. We did not imagine this coming, but we have not stopped working and we have given everyone our best efforts.

Schooling: Some students have been given assignments to do at home, some students are doing studies online. The government restrictions continue to increase and they are planning to provide packages of study sheets to the children since there are not many opportunities to utilize books and such have limited access. The teachers are continuing to take control and are handling the situation as best as they can.

Outreach: Together, we have been supporting different groups throughout each day. We have been working on preparing meals to bless families in need. It has been wonderful to see how God is working and touching people's hearts. We are witnessing people helping each other to get ahead and even helping each other carry food. Thanks be to God for that! There have been many people helping us and supporting us by donating time, money and food such as eggs and vegetables.

In addition to preparing meals, we have been working on making protective masks. We have been making more than 300+ masks to give to all of the family members of our children and church as well as families in need throughout the community. We will also be making masks for families in the widow village of Tecpan. Some of the students and families from the school and church have offered to help support in making these masks.

Our country: School are closed, colleges and universities are having online classes. The airport is closed. Employees are without knowing when they will return to work. The wearing of a mask has been made mandatory or otherwise penalized or fined. Social distancing measures are also mandatory. Adhesive tape is being used on the floors of establishments and facilities to help maintain the distance limitations. Limited numbers of people are allowed in stores and only one family member is allowed in. Lines are forming outside at the doors of groceries and banks that can take almost 1-2 hours to get through. Essential shops, groceries, banks, pharmacies and gas stations are the only establishments open. Restaurant services are limited to only deliveries. Parks, trails and center cities are empty. All sports seasons are also cancelled. Weddings, funerals and other social planned events are also cancelled. Easter was also without traditional activities. Some citizens are selling masks for Q.5.00 but it is very difficult for families to obtain because many do not have the money to buy for all of their family members. The borders are closed and only merchandise traffic is permitted.

Thank you for your love, support and prayers to our country of Guatemala. In the midst of everything, believe that God is in control and that we will soon see with joy the power to see each other and give them a big hug. God was, is, and will remain faithful always. "