



Notes from the

Cottrills

in Mexico

May 2020 edition

**Rapid change means a lot of decision-making.** Have we made the right decisions over the past few weeks? That will be something to keep talking about in the months ahead.

The encouraging thing is that we're having these conversations. We've been forced to think about the role of the local church, what is "essential", and how we can reach out in times of crisis.

Right or wrong, much of our ministry has moved temporarily online. From the start we've been able to have fully interactive **services**, and we're been encouraged to see a lot of participation as we worship and study and pray together! We've been continuing our amazing study of **Daniel**. And if there's one theme that comes out again and again in Daniel, it's the fact that **God is in control!**

We've also been continuing our *Discovering Life* Bible study (pictured – some of our class), focused on learning the basics of the faith so we can teach others. It's been a joy to be reminded of the unchanging truths from God's Word.



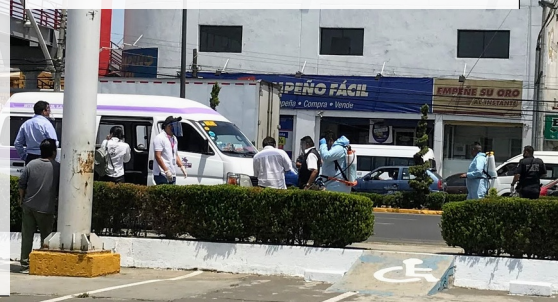
*This is the third stanza of "What God Ordains Is Always Good", written almost 350 years ago. The hymn is based in part on Deuteronomy 32:4. It is believed that Rodigast wrote it to encourage a sick friend.*

**More to think about:** How do you think missions and evangelism will change in the years ahead? Will travel be more expensive? Will it be harder to cross borders? Will more paperwork be needed? In the short term, pray with us as we hope to visit Canada when the Lord allows.

*What God ordains is always good:  
His loving thought attends me:  
No poison can be in the cup  
That my Physician sends me.  
My God is true: each morning new  
I trust His grace unending.  
My life to Him commending.*  
~ Samuel Rodigast

In a country where so many live on cash from day to day, loss of work even for a few days can be serious. Thanks to your support we have been able to help some in our church and community who are struggling by providing food. We're also trying to plan for weeks and months ahead, when needs will likely increase.

Below: workers in full protective gear (light blue) coming to spray down public transportation vehicles in Ixtapaluca, while passengers receive hand sanitizer.



Grace & Peace,

Jim & Shari  
Hannah, Nathanael

To update your address or change other preferences, please visit:  
<http://bit.ly/join-change>

**Nathanael** is one of the "lucky" homeschool students whose schedule hasn't changed! He's busy now with exams and projects as he finishes up grade 9. **Hannah**, in grade 12 at Prairie Christian Academy in Three Hills, Alberta, was living in the dorm when classes were suspended in mid-March. She was suddenly saying goodbye to her friends in the dorm and moving out! She was able to stay with Shari's parents for a while, and since has found a room to rent. We're not sure what will happen with actual graduation ceremonies, but she's completing her studies online, and will be looking for a job.

**Jim and Hannah created the verse cards pictured above** (Hannah's art of course!) to provide encouragement during these challenging days. They were first shared with our church, and then online at [en-la-biblia.com](http://en-la-biblia.com), Jim's site. It looks like people from dozens of other countries have accessed them, most notably *Columbia, USA, Peru, Argentina, Spain, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, and Guatemala.*

**Hermeneutics and Old Testament Survey** classes have been continuing online. We've been learning a lot about translation (we have both English speaking and bilingual teachers for the OT survey course) and online classes. As theological education changes around the world, what we're learning may help us to better partner with churches and schools and professors to train leaders.

Notes of Prayer and Praise

- ♪ Praise the Lord for the ability to continue ministry in many unique ways.
- ♪ Please pray for many who are struggling with financial and physical needs in our church. Pray that we will know how to best serve them.
- ♪ Please pray for Hannah and Nathanael as they finish their classes and prepare for the future.
- ♪ Please pray for wisdom for our travel plans over the next few months+. It's been a long time since we've seen many of you!

