

HINDERED, BUT NOT HALTED QUARANTINE 2020

QUARANTINED! Who would have believed what 2020 held for us in those first few weeks of January? At International Media Ministries the editing and finalizing of the last four episodes of the Heritage Project were well underway, as well as translations of the first four episodes and the Women of the Bible series, when the government announced a state of emergency and what amounted to a nationwide lockdown. Like most people in Spain, we were confined to our homes with only short trips to the grocery store, pharmacy, bank, or trash cans allowed. Thankfully, while inconvenient, much can still be accomplished long distance with the various editing projects. Last fall we filmed the episode on Cyprian, which happens to tell about a plague in ancient Rome. Two short teasers from the Cyprian episode have been prepared for you to use on your social media platforms. Our hope is that they will help you to engage members of your congregation, as well as others who are currently seeking truth, peace, and hope during these difficult and tumultuous times. One teaser ends with an offer to pray, the other, a challenge to get involved in the current crisis just like Cyprian and the early believers. Check them out on our website at www.nexusministries.org or on our Facebook page Nexus Ministries.



Kirk's computer screen as he worked on the Indonesian version of Tamar.

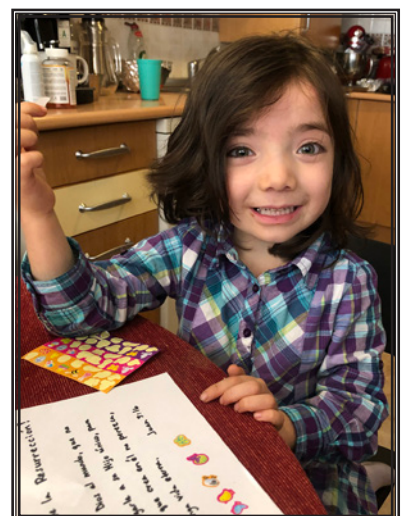
In November, Kirk felt led to continue pursuing his coaching certification, and within a week of inquiring, he was enrolled in his first class. Thankfully, all of the classes and coaching sessions are held online, so he has been able to continue throughout this lockdown period. Many evenings he can be found on zoom/skype calls for both classes and coaching sessions. By summer, he will have completed the first of three levels of coaching, as well as the required coursework for the second level. To complete his coaching hours for the second level, he could still use a few individuals who are interested in being coached. If you are curious or have questions, please don't hesitate to e-mail him at kirk.ford@agmd.org, or message him on Facebook.

Despite the isolation and cabin fever that comes with a strict quarantine like the one here in Spain, we have never felt so connected. Several times a week we participate in zoom calls, even the kids have had a few calls. Karla keeps up (praise God for google translate) with the whatsapp groups for the kids' preschool classes, and has had the opportunity to pray for and with those who



have had the coronavirus or a family member who has been hospitalized. For Easter, the kids made and decorated a card with John 3:16 in Spanish, and we delivered it and some chocolate Easter eggs to our three neighbors whom we've befriended.

It may not seem like much, but we are trying to plant where we can, and believing God for a future harvest.



POCO A POCO

(LITTLE BY LITTLE)



Three year anniversary of being together.

Like most of you, this was not the spring we anticipated. The World Assemblies of God congress was to be in Madrid in March, and Kirk had tickets to a media conference in Thailand in April. None of that, of course, happened. Instead, we were GIFTED the opportunity to live 24/7 as a family. Since the day that Kaleb and Katelyn came to live with us, we have never had more than a day or two where we were all home together all day. At first, we were working hard to reach the field as soon as possible, then we were adjusting to Spain, and, honestly, sudden parenthood was overwhelming. It seemed as if breaks were essential to maintain sanity. So, this time has been an unexpected blessing, as we have formed stronger bonds during these last weeks of isolation. Life has an easy rhythm for the first time in three years. And, God saw fit to give me a trial run as a homeschool teacher as well. We have been considering it for our next itineration, so that we can travel more as a family. Now, I have some actual experience.



Five weeks into quarantine, we have adjusted to a new normal. In the mornings, Karla homeschools the kids, while Kirk works on various projects. After lunch (which in Spain is 2:00 p.m.), the kids have an hour of quiet time in their rooms followed by an hour of play. Often, at some point in the afternoon, daddy will spend some time teaching science with the help of educational videos. By 6:00 p.m., we finish dinner, and the kids have some more free time before baths and bed at 8:00 p.m. It is from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. (and after kids are asleep) that Karla has time for her projects, which recently have included taxes and sponsor communication. Thankfully, she has also been able to continue her Spanish classes online, although due to all the new responsibilities, she has only had one class a week.



During this time, we have all battled various strange and disturbing symptoms, but we have rested when required, and tried to keep to the schedule as much as possible. Although it is possible, maybe even probable, that we had THE virus, testing wasn't available. So, we are thankful for your prayers and God's protection.



PRAYER & PRAISE

- *PRAISE - God continues to bless us through you. Thank you for continuing to give by faith in these uncertain times.*
- *PRAISE - Although we have had COVID symptoms, we have been able to stay at home and recuperate without intervention.*
- *PRAY - Kirk's botox treatment for his migraines has had to be put off for several weeks already. He either needs delivered from migraines, or he needs this treatment to happen soon.*
- *PRAY - Both kids have one ear tube that needs to be surgically removed. It isn't invasive, but we have been unable to return to the ENT with all their test results to schedule surgery. The tubes have been in longer than normal already, and there is concern that they could cause damage to their eardrums.*
- *PRAY - Continue to pray with us for God's direction, blessing, and wisdom as we continue to define our areas of ministry.*

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TO GIVE ONLINE

Visit our website at www.nexusministries.org. Along the top you will find links to sign up for our newsletters, make a commitment or support us financially.

The giving link will take you to our page on the A/G giving website. You can choose to give either a one time gift, or at the bottom of the page you can choose to set up a recurring gift.

TO GIVE BY MAIL

Mail a check to AGWM at 1445 N. Boonville Ave.; Springfield, MO 65802. Make sure to put our name and account #2733657 in the note portion of the check.