 **Andrew & Freddy**

Dear Praying Friends, March / April 2020

**Isaiah 41:10 says, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”**

It is incredible the situation that we have found ourselves in. All of us! I am amazed at the magnitude of it; it is world-wide! Here in Puerto Rico we have been on a country-wide lockdown for four weeks now. Each week or two the governor tightens the restrictions more, so that even today I could not enter a pharmacy without a mask on and no children can be outside their homes or the police will be called. It would be very easy to be dismayed over all of this, yet we have a confidence, an assurance, that the lost world does not possess – God will uphold us with His right hand – His omnipotent hand. Over and over again God has been faithful; I have no doubt He will continue to be so.

Just when we think we have it so bad, we get in contact with our missionaries in Venezuela. That country is completely shut down to the point that the gas stations are closed. With no gas, people cannot drive anywhere. Klixon Castillo, the pastor in Valencia, is concerned about getting food to his people. He feels like he is under house-arrest! Luis Quilarque, the pastor in Guacara, is worried about keeping in contact with the people of his church. We plan to help them in whatever way we can during this time. We pray for relief in these extreme cases. God is still faithful.

Our church people here are all safe and shuttered up in their houses, but we are still having services in our house. We do not have the capacity to do online services since we are a small church and we were not prepared beforehand for this; some do not have the technology to view it. Juana had her 83rd birthday; Kathy made her a cake and we took it to her and handed it through the gate. It encouraged her heart, praise the Lord! The others of the church we have kept in contact with through WhatsApp. Praise the Lord that all are safe and several are still working their jobs. Girls’ Club had to be canceled, but all will resume as soon as this crisis passes. Our prayer is that God will bring new people in as a result of this great upheaval.

We praise the Lord through this time as we are separated from two of our sons, Andrew and Caleb, they continue to work and have been safe from the virus. One of Kathy’s favorite lines in the Bible is, “And it came to pass…” This, too, will pass, and God will still be God. Praise the Lord!

*Alaba al Señor*,

(Praise the Lord)

Gary Ashley