

# Mid 2020

Posted on [5 July, 2020](#) by [Ronald Irene](#)



We send our warm greetings from Asuncion, Paraguay beginning the month of July. We are in winter here and some days are freezing and other days are boiling hot, but this is Paraguay. Houses are not built for the cold, so some days we go outside in jumpers as it is freezing inside and its much warmer outside. Our kids sleep with the ac on hot air and we sleep with a radiator at the bottom of our bed to keep our feet warm.

We are now in the middle of the year, a year that none of us imagined would be like this, with the exception of some movie producers and suspense novelists.

We are fully aware that the economy here and around the World has been affected tremendously and none of us know to what extent and when this

will end if it will, but our trust and faith is deposited on our God Almighty.

Paraguay, which is a truly blessed land, has actually been in the World news due to its positive handling of covid-19, but for many countries in the region where we have family it is and has been terrible. Here the response to the lockdown and the regulations has been complied by most people and eventhough the positive cases are surging now each day it is still low compared to other countries. We all look like robots from a futuristic film when we go out. Every shop and place has a place to wash your hands and disinfect your shoes and they take your temperature everywhere. It is actually quite frustrating and annoying, but one gets used to it. Paraguayans are passive people which helps. We are now at phase threewhich means that many places are re-opening.



We know that in Argentina for example, where Nicky's parents live, they have had to go back to phase 0 and strict lockdown due to the vast number of cases and deaths. In Bolivia, where Ron has lots of family,



there are people dying on the streets.

In Argentina, Nicky's parents, who are in their 70's haven't been allowed out of their home for 4 months now. They have food delivered and thank God have a big garden and have each other. In Bolivia, Ron's mom, who is 86 and a widow, lives in an apartment so it is very hard for her. She lives with Ron's brother which is a blessing. We speak to her regularly and ask for your prayers as she is struggling physically and mentally at this time.

One of Ron's sisters, who lives in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia, has Covid -19 along with her family. For her daughter and son in law (our niece and nephew), it wasn't so bad, but Ron's sister and brother in law are both in hospital and Miguel was nearly in ICU and they asked for a plasma donor and his organs were collapsing One of his lungs was with 75% We were very worried and ask for prayer for them. His sister Teresa, came out of hospital today (4th of July), but Miguel is still in hospital although he is stable. We know quite a few people in Bolivia in the same situation.



Natty and Marce with Teresa and Miguel

For us it has been quite difficult due to the worry for our families in Bolivia

and Argentina, and as you know this affects ones mental health and many things. It has also been hard financially, as having all the family in the house our electricity bill and others have increased a lot and we have had many problems with the water and drainage system. Our washing machine broke as well as our microwave so it's never ending. Life goes on and we have tried to find ways of fixing things.

Our income has obviously reduced. Nicky used to give private lessons to cover food and petrol bills and this has decreased a lot. It's the same all over the world and we are aware of this and pray for everyone, especially for those who have lost jobs or had to close businesses, etc.

We all have health issues as well which makes it harder, and appointments are cancelled or aren't allowed to open so it is never ending. Nicky had an appointment last Wednesday at a neurotologist for her dizzy spells and needs new tests so please pray for this, including an MRI again. Ron and Tammy need to go to the dentist asap but it is hard getting appointments and everything is very expensive now when it comes to health. One has to prioritize needs. I don't know if I told you, but back in January I had bad back pains and went to a specialist and also had an x ray. I found out that I have a small part of my spine fractured. I have been walking around with this for over twenty years. Please pray for this, too.

Our church services continue being streamed live every Sunday by Ron and we also have Sunday school done by Nicky and Ron. We send out short videos as well with kids crafts. We have bible studies on Thursdays and Friday via zoom. We also do pastoral visits. Ron mainly, although Nicky is also visiting now and praying either via zoom or at their houses.





Sunday Message



Cristo Salvador • 🔔

Jun 15 • 🌐



## Escuelita Biblica Dominical



3

3 Shares 223 Views

Sunday school



# < Watch



Cristo Salvador •

May 10 at 20:00 •



Reflexionando con el Rvmo. Arzobispo Gregorio Venables



2:55



28:51



14

2 Comments 9 Shares 443 Views



Love



Comment



Share

There was a possibility of reopening the cathedral this month complying all the necessary restrictions and regulations, but we didn't feel at peace with this as cases are rising and most of our parishioners are either elderly or with young children so they wouldn't be allowed to come anyway. They also only allow 20 people max which makes it harder.

We have pastor's meetings every 15 days at the diocese, we are studying together and making decisions. Some pastors connect online via zoom and some of us go.



We are still waiting and understand that the naming of the new bishop is in God's hands and his timing is perfect.

We have had many problems during the last month with the church sewage and drainage and broken tubes, etc . The church tithes and offerings has reduced tremendously, but most people are always there to help if they can.













The children's classes remain online via zoom and they have said that they will not return this year to classes at school. The school year here finishes in December and begins in February. It is very hard for most people as many people here do not have access to internet or computers. Our children have classes from 8:00 – 15:30 Monday through Friday and Sam has classes from 8:00 -12:000 and an hour of extra help in the afternoon when needed. He has lots of extra work so it is tiring and we are trying to order via amazon resting glasses for them. It seems to be the new normal to work online and have zoom meetings, but am sure it's the same in most places. We pray for this pandemic to cease and things to improve everywhere. We leave it all in God's hands. This week the children finished the first term of the year and Tammy got straight A's. Danny straight A's and 2 B's and Sammy the same. Same made his own gym for a recycling project, and now he want to charge us when we use it. We are proud of them.





Tammy dislikes photos





New place for classes (his room)





Danny's 15th birthday





Samu's Gym





Fathers Day (also Danny's birthday)

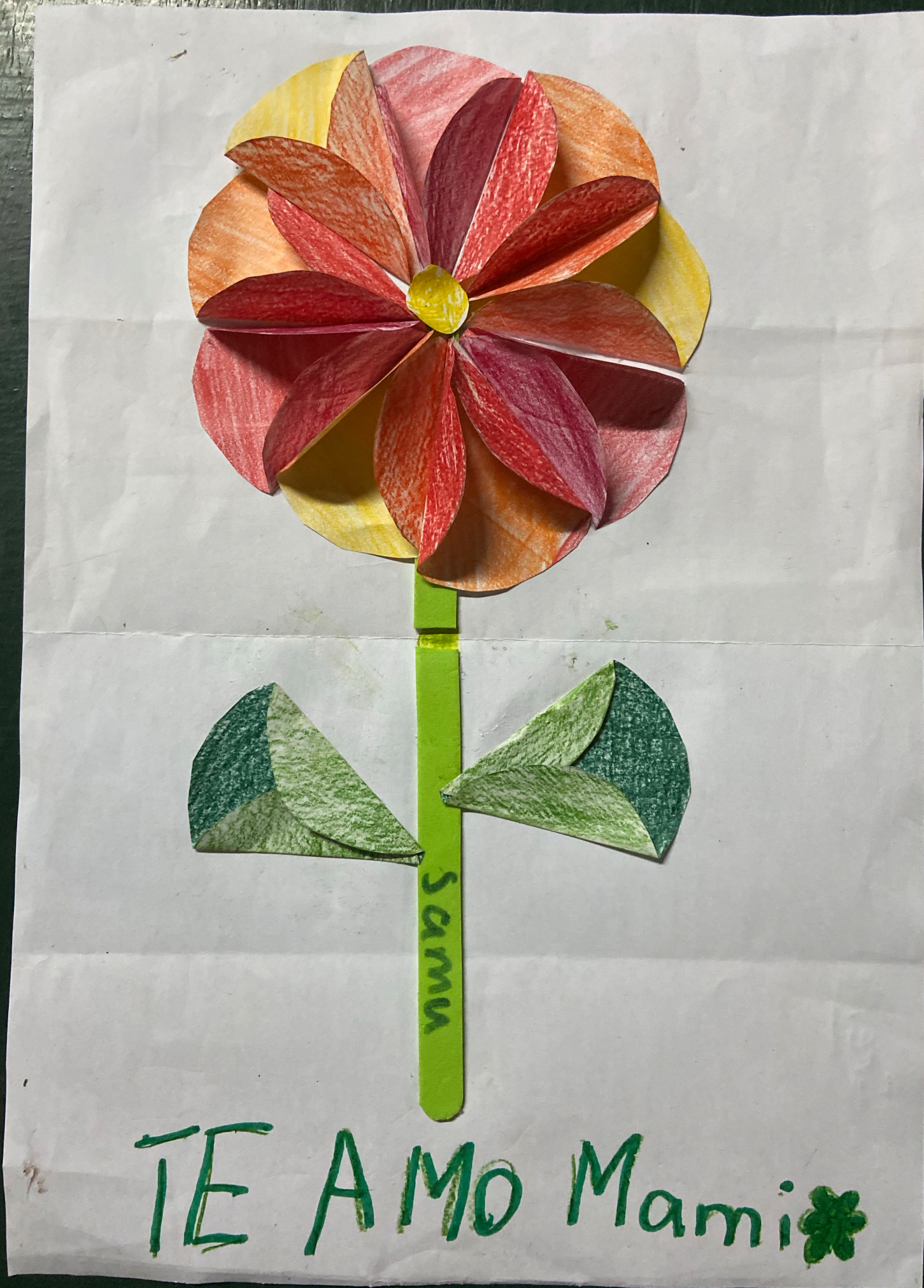






Nicky's birthday





Samu's handmade present for his mummy





Art in progress



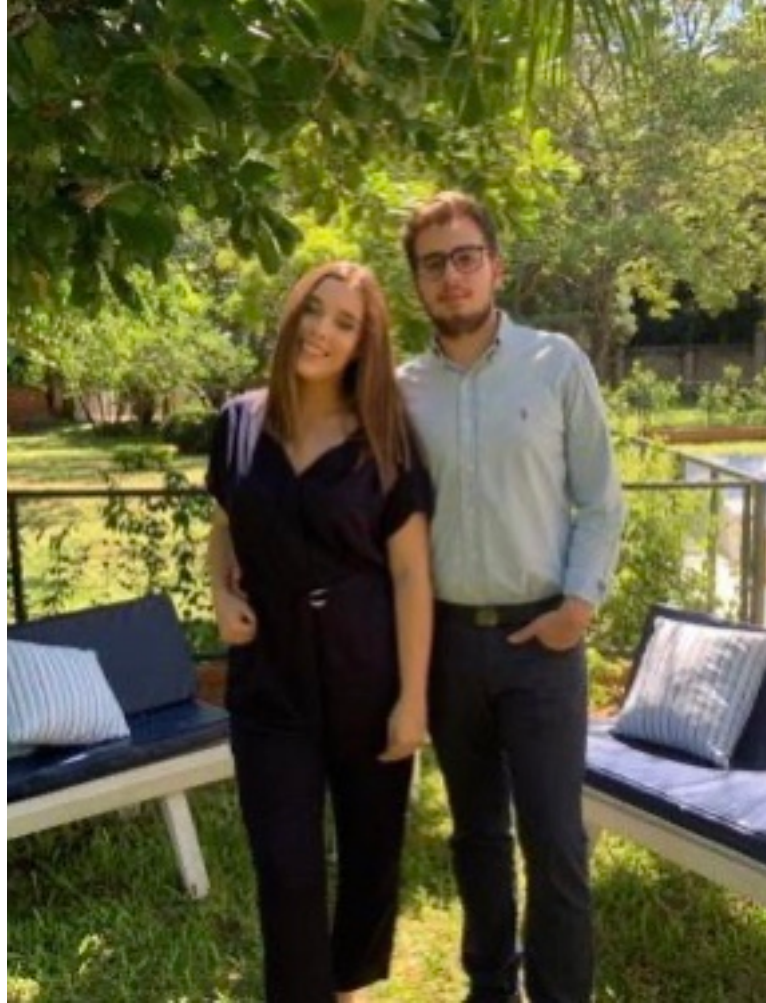




Exercising

Our eldest daughter Natasha has also been struggling with health issues this year and it gets quite frustrating for her at times. Last Saturday night her boyfriend, Marcelo, who is also a musician at our church, fell over and fractured both his elbows. He had surgery on Monday and had screws put in. Please pray for him. Natasha tries to accompany him as much as possible and help him as obviously he can't do anything on his own. He is coping well and at home now. Please pray for a fast recovery.





We continue supporting the children's home 'Garden of Hope' and recently helped them with a new sink and lights. We also support Christian with clothes and diapers.















Christian

We are trying hard to take advantage of the views that we get on social media so will continue transmitting live throughout the year, even when we decide to re-open the cathedral. Cristo Salvador doesn't have



sufficient ventilation, so all services will be held in the cathedral once we do re-open. It's great to share the gospel and I continue sending out daily meditations via WhatsApp to lots of people. I also preach in English for the chapel once a month. I believe that people are seeking God more and more during this time and we are on various prayer chains praying for the World.

Here are some links of our broadcasts: Father's Day in English

<https://youtu.be/5emEyEsZgy0> Biblical message, Sunday June 28th.

<https://www.facebook.com/195684741071757/videos/738024140348600/?vh=e&d=n> Sunday School for children's

<https://www.facebook.com/195684741071757/posts/600606433912917/?vh=e&d=n>

We have to remind ourselves constantly that God is in control of everything and sees the big picture and our role is to go and make disciples of all nations, so it is our job to obey him. We try to be positive and not complain about the situation. God is good.

The Bible teaches us that some of the qualities of the fruit of the spirit is joy, patience and peace. We have to show the World that we possess these qualities even at hard times like these. As God said to Joshua, 'be brave and be strong' for the lord your God is with you. And we must be witnesses to this and through our relationship with God, shine with his light.

It's a tremendous privilege to be an instrument of God's blessing and we pray for wisdom and intelligence and that everything we do be for the glory of the Lord.

We thank God for all the help and support we receive for our ministry and work here in Paraguay. May God bless you all and may his face shine on you and give you strength and peace.





But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD

Joshua 24:15

Lots of love and blessings from our family to you all