

SHOLA!

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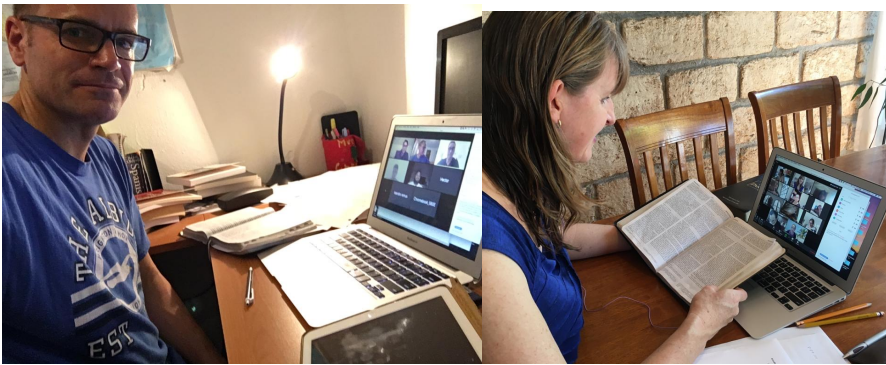
This week

Just like most of the world Mexico has been hit with Covid-19. The first cases in Monterrey were diagnosed last Wednesday, on Thursday Lucy and Miriam's Prepa (which includes the major university in Mexico) announced that they'd close until after Easter (at least) and on Friday the stock up shopping in the supermarkets was significant. Church services happened on Sunday but now all church meetings are cancelled until further notice - many are organising video streaming of the main meeting. Government decisions have announced closure of all schools from this Friday until after Easter and most people are trying to stay completely at home.

In this context Pete and Sarah have been looking for ways to keep teaching and encouraging others. With many being fearful, they need to hear more from God's word, have more deliberate encouragement and not become victims of their isolation. So Sarah has spent lots of time helping the women in her Bible studies get started using Zoom. On Wednesday there were twice as many women in the Mums and Bubs Bible study group, including the founding member who now lives in Mexico City. On Thursday there were 14 in the Zoom Bible study, which just so happened to be Romans 8, a perfect passage to encourage us that although we and creation groan, we have a sure and certain hope of glory. As we fix our eyes on the solution that God has provided for our biggest problem (sin) it puts our present suffering into perspective and gives us hope.

Sarah's next challenge is to help the Sunday morning Bible study women to meet 1-1 in video calls to read the Bible. Hopefully this will be something they can use long term and it doesn't depend on Sarah.

Pete started a new Zoom class of Christian Worship and has students in 5 different countries who get together twice a week to study. Cancelling local commitments has freed up time for some to take on new study. We're thankful to see how God can use trials for good.



Lucy and Miriam have had no classes this week, and next week will start with online classes. Please pray for Lucy who has many IB (International Baccalaureate) assessments in final stages and is due to start exams in May. The disruption in final preparations and assessments is unnerving and the possible cancelation of these international exams is unknown.

In other news Lucy celebrated her 18th birthday with the family this week. Miriam had two wisdom teeth removed and she broke a finger at basketball last week.

So life goes on! We are safe and calm, and looking for ways to continue to serve our great God. We are not planning to change our scheduled departure to Sydney on June 20, but we know that all plans are in God's hands.

Please pray

- Give thanks that God is sovereign. Pray that we will not give way to fear but we can use this time of trial to point people to depend on God, the one who is in control of everything.
- Give thanks for the benefits of communication technology and that this can be a time of personal engagement and growth in God.
- Pray that people will not give up meeting together but can be creative to find effective ways to do that.
- Pray for relief from the effects of this virus - both medically and financially.
- Pray for those those who lose their income.
- Pray for the elderly and the vulnerable and pray for the medical workers.
- Pray that God will use this disruption and uncertainty to help many to realise that they are not god and that they need the salvation that only Jesus offers.
- Please pray for supporters to be extra generous to CMS in the midst of extra expenses and lowered income.
- Pray for Lucy to keep working without being discouraged and that the exams will not be cancelled.
- Pray for Miriam's recovery (finger and mouth).



Bible

"We know that the whole creation has been groaning... and we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies."
Romans 8:22, 23