



**Doug & Shelly
Kallestad**

**“Behold, I will do something new, now it springs forth;
will you not be aware of it?
I will even make a roadway in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert.”**

Isaiah 43:19

September 2020

Dear Friends and Family,

September in Chile! Spring and sweet freedom! After almost six months of quarantine we are finally able to leave the house without a permit... at least during the week! Last year about this time Lucas, one of our grandkids, was studying history with his mom and said, “I wish I could live a historic event!!!”

Covid-19 has been historic!

Our son, Kyle, and our daughter, Christy, her husband Seba and their one year-old son Steven live with us. In March, Seba went to Ecuador through Lima, Peru. The Pandemia hit and our world changed. Seba made it home on the last flight out of Lima before Chile closed its borders.

We were so thankful to have Seba home and be together! All of us went straight into a strict “Covid 19” quarantine required by the government for travelers. None of us could leave the house.



Seba later tested positive for Covid. He was sick for a long time but he survived. We are pretty sure the rest of us had Covid without the symptoms. Thanks for keeping us in your prayers!

Our six-week family quarantine started in March and ended just before our municipality, Maipu, went into quarantine in May. Everything closed except grocery stores, pharmacies and emergency medical facilities. Just to give you an idea of the scope, according to the National Institute for Statistics, by the end of 2020 Maipu will have a population of over 1,000,000 people!

While in quarantine you are required to have a permit to leave your home. These three- hour permits were eventually limited to two per week. Due to the Pandemia, in March a 10pm curfew enforced by the military was established. The rioting we had experienced before Covid stopped! In August, the curfew was moved back to 11pm and the metro station that was set on fire in front of our house when the riots began last October opened up again!

What a complex and challenging new world. Throughout the Bible we see the church growing through adversity and difficult times. This is no exception. With great challenges come even greater opportunities! When the world stopped, God got our attention. He is definitely doing something new!

As a local church body and as a movement, God is faithfully growing us into our new reality by showing us different ways to share His love. These are ways well navigated by the younger generations and strange waters for some of the rest of us...
the world of technology.

A new tech team at the Oriente church has made it possible for God's word to spread online. This has allowed some people to stay connected and others to discover church for the first time! Challenges creating opportunities! Our Sunday services, daily devotionals and youth services are now on social media venues. We are so thankful for those who have stepped forward and made this possible.

Everyone has worked from home with cellphones, computers and a church camera that has traveled from house to house. With the change to online Sunday services, Oriente's attendance is steady and growing, and giving remains generous.

Zoom is now a common term and new way of life. Our monthly leaders meetings, Bible studies, Sunday school classes for the kids and even prayer vigils are on Zoom. The youth had an all night prayer vigil in August with more than 60 youth that made it the whole night! Our schools, which have not had kids actually in class all year, are creatively keeping students connected using online venues.

In Ecuador, as a result of her fun and innovative ideas, one of our Sunday school teachers has almost 5,000 social media followers throughout Latin America! Our Iberoamerican Bible Institute is now online and growing! One class had students from four countries!

As a mission, we have been able to connect via zoom at the same time with the leaders of our teams all over the world! With all the hours Doug spends in conference calls, Seba teases him about traveling more now via Zoom than he did before!

For many people, the Covid-19 pandemic has been extremely difficult.

As a mission we have been able to bless those in need in Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Chile with food supplies. We want to thank all of you who have partnered with us to make this possible! We are so thankful for the church throughout the world and locally, a community of believers that we are privileged to be a part of!

May your hearts be encouraged as you look around and see God moving in unexpected ways! It is definitely a new world; one filled with incredible opportunities! For us, life in quarantine has kept us busy in new ways and has given us the precious gift of unexpected family time.

We have also been tremendously blessed by the way God is working through our local church in Chile! From home, people keep praying, giving and staying involved via social media. Those with special permits have helped put together and deliver food boxes and hot meals to families from the school, the church, the community and even to those who have been forced to live on the streets.

The generosity of our Oriente church family is seen in the life of an elderly member who was taken a box of food. For her, this was an opportunity to give the tithe that she had been faithfully collecting in a small baggie.

Through adversity, God is digging deep the foundation, solid and strong. He is preparing a new way for us to move into the future so that the nations may know Jesus!

***"Lift up your eyes and look on the fields,
That they are white for harvest"
John 4:35***



We are intensely seeking God's divine direction on how to move forward. God has opened our eyes to possibilities that we did not see or fully appreciate before. He is challenging us to continue learning and growing in the area of technology. Yet what will it look like as the world begins to open back up?

As we venture out into our new "normal", how do we creatively blend the old and the new? Our life before Covid-19 and what it must look like after.

Technology is one thing but what about the art of relationships? Maybe being at home has made us realize how much we miss being together. Doing life together... meals, sports, church... How are we NOT going to hug each other when we are finally able to worship together again??? This is Latin America! These are serious questions!

Everyone's experience of Covid-19 and the social unrest in the world today is different. Whatever your experience has been, we hope that remembering PL's words to us during the riots last year will continue to encourage your hearts today as they have ours.

*"When we can't control
What is going on around us
Remembering God's faithfulness in the past
Helps us to be thankful in the present and
Gives us hope for the future!"*

We have seen God's goodness in so many ways! We have so much to be thankful for. I am thankful for spending 45 years with the man I love. This month we celebrate being married for 38 of those years!

We are also thankful for you. As we walk this path together your faithfulness and prayers mean everything. May God be glorified in all our lives as together we move forward with Him!



Something new Lord? Something new!

We can't end without saying thank you. Thank you for keeping Ian, our youngest grandson, in your prayers. After months of safely growing at home covered in prayer, recent tests show that Ian is completely healthy! The issues doctors were concerned about due to complications surrounding Ian's birth are gone! Jamie and the kids live 20 minutes away. We haven't seen them since March.

Blessings!
Doug & Shelly

We are looking forward to the day we can all be together again!

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