

Greetings to all;

I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this year 2020 which we have been able to do up until now, despite the pandemic which began in March. It is very important for me to highlight the unconditional and timely support that we received from each of you.

I briefly share my experience:

"At the beginning of the pandemic and when the dangerousness of the virus was confirmed and with the cancellation of the working groups to Mexico, my first reaction was to be sad because we had plans to continue with the projects started and some even had an end date, and simply because that could no longer be done, the world practically closed in on me and I said: "and now what are we going to do?"

I was like this for a week thinking. And during that time, I found a book that I began to read titled "If Jesus Were Mayor" by Bob Moffitt with Karla Tesch. It was in that book where I found a question that made me reflect: What would Leona Vicario be like if Jesus were mayor? Countless thoughts came to my mind because of this question, and in turn, I found the answer for my peace about what I should do in the middle of the tremendous crisis. That is how then today in writing to you, I'm doing it from the grand perspective that God is in control, and that his love and mercy are sustaining us even during the crisis. I understood that the mission of extending the Kingdom of God became more opportune in the midst of the crisis.

Today, dear brothers and sisters, I celebrate many of the things that have happened to us, and I do it with gratitude to God and appreciation for each one of you.

1. In the month of June, we proposed helping with a food pantry and a community dining room (providing food) to be implemented for two weeks for many families who had lost their jobs and did not have the economic resources to provide basic essentials for their family. You have to remember that the pandemic began in March and by June the situation had become complicated. All of the businesses had closed and there was no work; this project became like a healing balm in the lives of families, having begun in June and happening each month up to the present time. There are approximately 1,000 families who are being helped. The situation has not improved at all, but thanks to this project of community meals and food pantries, many families have been able to be helped during the crisis.

2. As a consequence of the pandemic, the government prohibited face-to-face classes, and all became Online / virtual. The University had developed from the beginning of its operations the virtual modality with technological infrastructure, so when the government declared the closure of face-to-face classes, we had no problem moving our student community to the virtual mode. But we faced a problem. Students could no longer continue studying because their parents had lost their jobs and had no money to pay their tuition. It was a real challenge, so we had to accept that they pay 50% of their tuition because 100% of the students do not pay their full tuition, that is; they would practically be paying 25% and others definitely didn't pay anything. Nevertheless, trusting in God's provision, we decided to face the decrease in salaries together with the team and endure the crisis together. At the present time, the situation has been progressively recovering, and we can tell you that we still have 130 students in the university, and salaries have recovered.

3. During the pandemic, we started with one of YPM's initial projects, which is the high school. Amazing! Today we have 18 students and that is a great achievement as a starting number.

4. In times of pandemic the good news is great, and it is enjoyed to the fullest since The SEQ (Secretary of Education of the State of Quintana Roo.) gave us the news that our bachelor's degrees that had been applied for have ALL been approved. Currently we are operating with the following degrees: Bachelor's degrees in Business Administration, Education, Computer Systems Engineering and Law. Moving forward, our university will have 4 new Bachelor's degrees and 2 new Master's degrees, which are: Bachelor's in Accounting and Finance, Marketing and Commercialization, Social Work, and Theology and Master's in School Administration, and Educational Technology. It has been an important achievement for the university, and I could mention that the degree in Theology has been a unique achievement. In Mexico, only the Catholic universities have degrees in Theology with official validity from the government. Until now, no evangelical institution in Mexico has official validity. In fact, at first, we doubted that we could achieve it due to the difficult process that is customary in our country, but to our surprise, we have it already. With this achievement opens up a whole range of opportunities for pastors or those who aspire to be pastors, since in Mexico, pastors are the most looked down upon service providers that exist in the field of service. Thus, it is hoped that a path for a new generation of men in service to God and the community will be opened with this approval.

5. With this pandemic, the YPM-Mexico family grew. We currently have a great team, people willing to serve when they are needed and without conditions. Before, it was Erly and I, but now we are more than 50 people involved who are keeping an eye on the villages in order to organize them and who are in touch with all the pastors and church leaders, being in constant contact to know what the needs are and how we can help.

6. Another of the projects that we had ready to start is the water plant. As I mentioned at the beginning, we had plans and planned construction groups, but everything stopped. However, the First Church of San Antonio Texas, USA did not allow that everything remained in a dream, but with effort, they sent us resources to continue with the work. We are currently ready and early in January 2021 we will be functioning formally. The important thing about this project is to bring quality water to families at accessible prices, in addition to providing work to local people. The project intends to obtain financial resources to continue giving scholarships to young people.

7. In response to the pandemic crisis we are working to implement 5 workshops, in order to train people who do not have work so they can undertake a small business and do not need to abandon their families to go to the Riviera Maya or Cancun for a job. The workshops are carpentry, electricity, plumbing, sewing, and development of handicrafts.

As I have described before, it is very exciting and gratifying to see what God has given us and has done in the middle of a crisis that still remains. In me there was disappointment and frustration because my eyes were fixed on what we had planned and what we were sure of, but God showed me that the purpose of our work does not rest in our plans, but in the plans of God, and I know that his heart will always be for the weakest, because YPM exists for them and if people are in crisis, then there is work to be done. If we can't see the people as the engine of our work, then what are we planning? And for whom are we planning?

Thank you, God, and many thanks to each of you for your love and goodwill toward men Emmanuel (God with us). He made it so that in the midst of the crisis, the sickness, pain, scarcity and death we might move forward and bless the lives of many people, saving ourselves. We still continue, and we will continue for the honor and glory of God.

I share all this with the hope that each one of you who contributed to these achievements rejoice in Lord and believe that God through this service reveals himself and provides for anyone that was in need. Thank you very much, thank you and thank you... We hope we can soon see each other and talk more about what God does.

For his love and his mercy,

*IRLY AND WILLIAM.*