

# VERGARA NEWSLETTER

Talo being part of the DAR ministry feeding the poor and sharing the gospel



Celebrating Lucas' 2nd birthday



## *Three months of lockdown and the healthcare system has collapsed in Bolivia*

Something that characterizes human beings is their incredible ability to adapt to complex circumstances. We can all testify to this after experiencing these unexpected and historic times of Covid-19 and the confinement that comes with it. We want to let you know how we are adapting in our daily lives and ministry during this long time of quarantine.

Three months of lockdown and the healthcare system has collapsed in Bolivia. We arrived back in Bolivia at the end of February and two weeks later the country began a strict quarantine due to the coronavirus outbreak. In fact, after over three months in lockdown, the country's economy practically stopped and the healthcare system had collapsed. The reality is that people here have to be very careful not to get sick or hurt because it is very difficult to get adequate medical attention.

## STRICT MEASURES

Bolivia has been declared a state of sanitary emergency because of COVID-19. Consequently, the government has taken strict measures for the entire population, such as:

1. Only one family member can go out once a week for five hours according to their last digit of their ID number, and only to stock up for the whole week.
2. Face-to-face classes have been suspended.
3. It is mandatory to use a face mask and to keep a social distance from others when going out.
4. Any kind of social event or meeting (including church) has been suspended.

## Life and Ministry During the Covid-19 Lockdown

Despite all the restrictions, we have been active and have learned to work with our brothers in Christ using various tools. We are excited to see God being glorified during this difficult situation we are going through as a society and as a church.

### *As a family:*

We had to adjust our lifestyle to the circumstances, but we have really enjoyed this time, from having our time as a couple watching movies, playing with our children, doing housework together, celebrating little things each month like our little Mati, Lucas' 2nd birthday, and many other simple but priceless things, which we are valuing deeply.

### *Serving:*

Talo, together with the pastoral team of Emanuel Church, have been preparing periodical, biblical, audio messages to share with the church members and many other people.

Patty has been a great help with the editing for Talo's audio messages. She has also made a couple of video editions for the 31st anniversary of the Emanuel Church and updating the church's Facebook page.

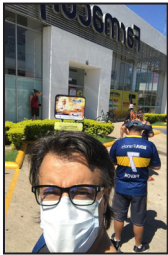
Talo organized two book reading online groups. The first group is the pastoral group of Emanuel church with coworker Frosty Hansen. We have just finished sharing Richard Baxter's "The Reformed Pastor." The other book is called "More than a Rabi" and Talo is reading it with four young adults.



*Talo and young adults in mentoring time*



*Patty editing Talo's audio and video messages for the Emanuel Church*



*Talo doing weekly shopping*



*Devotional studies Patty was doing*



*Talo at one of the weekly meetings with the pastors of Emanuel*



*Lucas happy to hold Matias*

## During Lockdown

During this time of lockdown, Talo has taken the opportunity to meet with some young adults to have a time of mentoring and talk about personal, emotional, and spiritual issues.

Patty has prepared two online courses to teach and motivate women to practice their devotional times. The first course was based on Ephesians and the second one was based on women of the Bible. Both courses had approximately ten women in attendance. Some ladies have never done a devotional before and they have enjoyed it very much.

Talo has been organizing an online program for CBG (Grace Bible Center) to interview Christian experts on different topics of current interest. The event is called "Agora" and we are on Facebook live every other Friday night. The two events we have done already were on "integral health" and "mental health."

## Special Request

Our family really needs to be able to purchase a car, especially with our two small children. We are asking for you to consider whether God would have you help us with this purchase. If you are able, you can make a contribution [HERE](#).

We thank the Lord for you being so loving to us, taking such good care of us, and giving us everything we need.

### **Prayer Requests and Praises:**

- We praise the Lord for health, especially during these very difficult times.
- We are thankful to be able to minister to people in different and creative ways.
- Pray for those among our churches who have the coronavirus. The virus is spreading close to dear ones and some have suffered through difficult times and are dealing with expensive hospital bills.

Thank you for your friendship, prayers, interest, and support that make it possible for us to live and serve our Lord in Bolivia.

For more information on please contact us:

Gmail: [talopattyvergara@gmail.com](mailto:talopattyvergara@gmail.com)

Blog: <https://talopattyvergara.wordpress.com/contact/>

Facebook Page: The Vergaras

Because He lives,  
Talo, Patty, Lucas, and Matias Vergara

**Expanding the Youth Vision for Serving God in Latin America**

**Talo and Patty Vergara • c/o GMI, PO Box 9405, Grand Rapids, MI 49509 • [talopattyvergara@gmail.com](mailto:talopattyvergara@gmail.com)**