

# ◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

June 2020

Link International  
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and  
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Dear friends and family,

Recently we received a newsletter from some friends of ours serving in Asia. They used language to explain a concept – and me being a “word person”, so wanted to share it with you – and how it ties into our lives also! They shared the following;

“There’s a great Indonesian word – “suka duka” – which means when you like something and grieve it at the same time (suka is like and duka is grief). They would use it as we would say “love hate relationship” with something, like going on a roller coaster. We have that *suka-duka* feeling right now in this season.” *Mike O’Quin*

*Suka – Like:* It has been so amazing to have this time without interruption and without travel and the pressure of time commitments! I (Martha) have been behind on administrative work and since the quarantine began in March until yesterday (June 16<sup>th</sup>), I have filled my days with administrative tasks...! I can see my office now! Yesterday, I looked up and said to Pablo: “I’m done. I’m up to date!” I can let out a sigh and say “thank you Lord that you allowed me to have this time where I



was just stuck in one place and could work and set up systems and get ‘order’ in my world...”

Pablo has been able to work on sorting and organizing his tools and construction materials for projects. He has also worked on some much-needed repairs to our water system and damage to the facia boards on the roof due to termites.

Our church runs a “food bank” for families in need. Because the regular ministry that Pablo does has

been altered right now, he has been privileged to help deliver food baskets every other week to several families.



Pablo and I have become the “techie team” in our church body with “Zoom” and “Facebook Live-streaming”. Our beginning weeks were a bit shaky and we have been on a learning curve – but things are going great now! From the end of March on we have coordinated and projected the Sunday church services and Friday youth group meetings! In May we added back pre-marital counseling – and in June we added in our Couples Small Group – all online!



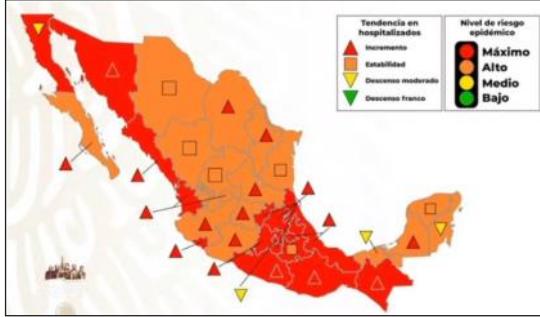
*A few in the congregation have wifi and can attend service through Zoom. The remainder watch as it is posted as a live video on Facebook.*

*Suka – Like:* On a personal level, we are thankful that we have had a spiritual and emotional sabbatical as we have studied the word and prayed together daily – something that my heart had been crying for for quite some time. But a person never expects the world to come to an abrupt halt. We tend to think that we need to be doing, doing, doing. Isn’t that what God has called us to do – to serve those around us? To interact – to counsel and care for? To teach?

*Duka – Grief:* It’s hard to be in a holding pattern for so long; not able to see and love on our grandchildren, not knowing when we can get back to worshipping and preaching in church, to teaching ESL in a classroom – to counseling in person – to having



lively conversations over coffee with the men's group... Our ministry to Cuba is on hold and the conditions there are incredibly tough... and we have no idea as to when we will be able to travel there again... Grief...



As of this week, 16 of Mexico's states have turned from "Red" (Maximum Risk) to "Orange" (High Risk). Our state of Baja California continues to be in "Red". Like the whole world – church gatherings, sport's ministry, the groups that we serve with during the summer... all these things have had to be cancelled. The border is closed to visitors – in both directions. At the entrance of our city we go through a health screening and if you aren't a resident and can prove it, you are turned around. Life is different and it was so abrupt and unexpected...

However, through it all **God is moving** - we will not in any way deny it. In that respect, we feel *Suka – like*. We are thankful for this time. He has given us space to be productive in a whole different way, to look for new ways of serving outside of our normal routines. And then we feel *Duka – grief* as we see such pain, sickness, loss, hurt, and unrest.

So many ask why a good God would let bad things, like COVID and the political and racial unrest in our world, happen. Maybe there won't ever be a humanly satisfactory answer... but maybe part of the answer is found in how He finds ways to redeem us and His creation even in the face of bad things, such as giving us **new perspective and new opportunities**.

Amid so many unexpected and abrupt alterations to our lives—He hasn't changed. His plans haven't changed. And His calling on our lives hasn't changed.

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Psalm 33:11 *But the Lord's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.*

Romans 11:29 “for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.”

May we all walk in God's “shalom peace” even amid the uncertainty of our lives. Blessings dear ones.



Meeting of our community coaches with a government representative of the City Sports Dept to talk about how to navigate the new guidelines in the future reopening.

