

THE KOTVAS FAMILY

Missionaries to the Deaf and Hearing — Peru, South America & Beyond

Sending Church: Emmanuel Baptist Church — 1819 Hill Ave. Ft. Myers, FL 33901 — (239) 936-4252 — Pastor Bob Ossewaarde



May — June 2021

Dear Friends and Family,

“God’s so Good, He gives us so many blessings, undeserved, that’s what we are. I want to thank Him, love and praise Him, a whole lot today and a whole lot more tomorrow!”

The simple song above is one of Lisa’s favorites. With all that we are experiencing today, it just resounds the greatness of our LORD and His worthiness of our praise. The past two months have been a marvel of the Lord’s greatness and goodness.

As you know, I had back surgery on April 13th to fuse L4 & L5 after removing a ruptured disc. The healing process is slow and stable. Two weeks ago, I went to the doctor, and he released me from all restrictions with a warning to be careful and to remember full healing will not come for another 4 to 10 months. I can say I understand.

I have been preaching every Sunday here in Fort Myers. In June, I flew to the DBFA (Deaf Baptist Fellowship of America) and preached. A few days later, Lisa and I flew to Chicago for a Spanish “Fires of Evangelism” conference at First Baptist Church in Hammond, IN. Both conferences were wonderful, with great preaching and fellowship. However, the trips took a bit of a toll on my back, thus I will need to be more careful and patient.

Ministry News



As of this writing, our church in Peru has been able to have services most Sundays and Wednesdays. There were several weeks when they were forced to shut down for elections and holidays as the government did not allow in-person services due to COVID. Peru has been hit hard, and we lost another wonderful Pastor friend in Arequipa, Mauro Huaman, to COVID.

He worked at EFATA when younger and single.

Peru is still extremely strict and keeps going back and forth with the shutdowns due to the unstable COVID situation.

We still do not know who is going to be the next president of Peru. The country is in political and economic turmoil at this time. There is much insecurity for the people. We pray that God with work in their hearts to make them more tender to receive the Word of God.

Until we know who will be the next president and what type of government we will have, there will not be much we can do about our school’s situation. Understanding all of this,

we rejoice in knowing that the Lord is in control and the opportunities for ministry are endless. We will continue to preach, see souls saved and baptized and make “full proof of our ministry!”

Family News

In May we had a family retreat and enjoyed having our children and grandchildren all together for the first time together in many years.



Judson got engaged to Valeria Balcazar, a wonderful young lady from Peru who is a pastor’s daughter studying at PCC. We have known her and her family for years, and they are close friends of ours. What a blessing.

We look forward to going back to Peru, Lord willing, in October. I am going to try to go down prior to that for a week to prepare for the family’s arrival and attend a Pastor’s Conference that we will be hosting at EFATA in September.

Until then, as I try to be careful and let my body heal, I will continue to preach as God gives me opportunity and serve Him here in the States.

Pray for Joy as she prepares for college at Baptist College of Ministry in Menomonee Falls, WI at Falls Baptist Church.

John, Joel, Jessica and Jennifer had the opportunity to go to Bible camp this year here in the States, and it was a great encouragement to them.

Once again, thank you for all you do and for your prayers and support for our ministry and family.

Blessings,

Bro. Joe & Lisa,
Joy, John, Joel, Jessica, and Jennifer