

## *Discipleship Amid Venezuela's Turmoil*



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The Lord is definitely sovereign, using this microscopic entity called COVID to show how absurd our human pride is before His presence. It is amazing how He has used this pandemic, or plague, which is the most widely used term in the Bible, to show humanity His sovereignty over all things so that people will seek him, especially in the face of death and the disappointing helplessness of science and world leadership.

The uncertainty of it all makes people feel very insecure about the future. That is where God's people must take the initiative to use the technological means currently available to send out the message of salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our country has been quarantined since March 2020, although the requirements have changed from time to time as decreed by the national and regional governments. The crisis which the country already faced before the pandemic has only served to exacerbate our situation. More than five million people (16% of the population) have emigrated, most by precarious routes, seeking survival in other countries, since here things are practically impossible. Most of the Venezuelans who remain in the country face a minimum income that is less than \$2.00 USD per month and a shortage of basic services such as water, electricity, fuel, transport, medicine, and medical care. It is under these circumstances that God's people have shown, day after day, the beautiful love of God to their neighbors.



*\*\* Pictures from the field are low resolution.*

*More on Reverse*



In November 2019, 23 Venezuelan believers from three states - Amazonas, Apure, and Bolivar - attended a DM2 workshop in the border town of Puerto Carreño, Colombia. These attendees never imagined how God would use this event to prepare them for evangelizing in the most difficult situation the country has experienced since the War of Independence.

In the midst of the above situation, several believers who attended the workshop in Puerto Carreño dedicated themselves to putting into practice what they received and began making disciples using the scarce resources available to them. At first, they used their manuals to dictate the studies of Romans in their churches, in small groups, and in homes. Then money was donated for us to print and send out student manuals to those who needed them. As a result, the number of participants grew. It has been a joy to see the dedication of these teachers who so lovingly sacrifice, freely giving out what they received for free, even if it is only for one person and even if it means going on foot, despite the rain, sun, and dusty roads. When we hear what God is doing, we give glory to Him for sending us modern missionaries who risked their lives because of their love for God and their desire to fulfill the Great Commission.

I also wish to share with you what the Lord has done in the city of Puerto Ordaz, an industrial city south of the Orinoco where quite a number of us have been able to participate in online DM2 webinars. It has been inspiring to see the desire of the participants to learn, setting aside everything else to resolutely participate in the virtual teaching. Most recently several of us signed up for the online DM2 Revelation workshop put on by John Wry. Despite it coinciding with another workshop, the attendees have attended religiously every Tuesday and Thursday.

It is our desire that this report encourage all who share in the ministry of DM2 to continue praying and serving God, knowing that His word never returns without accomplishing that for which it was sent and remembering the great joy in heaven over one person who believes.

The Venezuelan people ask your prayers for the Lord to mercifully and wonderfully intervene and rescue us in such a way that the world will marvel at His powerful and faithful hand and that the people might abandon their idolatry and recognize Jesus as the only Savior and Mediator between God and men.

In the love of Jesus.

Oscar Portes (DM2 field leader, Venezuela)



*Oscar Portes and his wife*