



Covid-19. It seems that is all you see on the news and hear in conversations. Even here, on our small island, we have been hugely affected. We have been quarantined to our property. This is a problem to get food. Usually, on Sundays, the farmers and fishermen come in from all over to sell their produce and catch-of-the-day. Others come to buy, as it is the best time to get what you need for the following week. With the quarantine, this has been shut down and it is now very hard and expensive to get what you need. We have no big supermarkets in our area, and we are not allowed to travel to the main city where they do have the larger markets.

Our village is very small and very poor. How we long to have money and the opportunity to buy something to help, but we have nothing. The government decided to help the people by giving each family some rice. We decided the best way to help would be to help with the distribution of the rice. We have been very busy working at the base, which is permissible during quarantine, but we are no longer allowed to hold church services, or have as much contact with the people. Tasks are good

to get done, and very-much needed, but we know from experience that the best way to reach people is by developing a relationship with them. We were eager to help with the distribution of rice, as it would show that we cared for the community, and give us a chance to touch base with the people that we have grown to know and love in our village.

The rice came from the government in 110 pound sacks that needed to be weighed into smaller portions of 22 pounds (10 kg). The first time we gathered to share the rice there were many workers there from other government agencies. There was a lot of rice to distribute, and we had to get busy! It was my job to pick up the 110 pound sack of rice and pour in onto a tarp. Then several women would work at scooping up the rice and weighing it into bags. The women were quick at their work, and I had to hustle to keep up with them! Then someone would tie the bags. We all wore masks and it was hot; working in the jungle heat, but we got it done.



We went away exhausted, with aching backs, and my wife, Raylene, had blisters on her hands, but we know that Jesus had a lot more than blisters on His hands for us, and our hearts were happy that we could help.

All we wanted to do when we got home was to take a shower and flop into bed from exhaustion, but it was Wednesday night. Even though we are under quarantine and can no longer worship with our brothers and sisters from the village, we are still allowed to gather with our mission-team and have been doing so - staying 6 feet apart. We have been holding services up on the mission porch. Tonight we were exhausted and I still needed to prepare the service, because I hadn't had time before.

Even with being so tired, we were happy. That afternoon after we had finished packing our 1,000th sack of rice and were done, the Municipal Welfare officer came to me and asked "Pastor, will you lead the closing prayer?" I was delighted to do so and I thanked God for the success of finishing the packing that they would deliver in the morning.

I thank God for the opportunity to be part of helping others in our community in a very simple way. Thank you for your help during these difficult times. We know that God see our hearts and knows we want to serve Him. Your prayers and donations make this possible.



God bless you!

Edgar & Raylene Espinosa



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