



MEDICAL EMERGENCY

**I sought the Lord, and He answered me.
He delivered me from all my fears.**

—Psalm 34:4, NKJV

As missionaries, we do our best not to fall ill while traveling. Unfortunately, the risk is always there due to the exposure to critically ill patients during emergency transports via air or land.

While in Nicaragua, Ray and I contracted covid. Ray became ill first, myself 3 days later. We had high fever, dysentery, lack of appetite, aches, and severe back pains. Knowing that malaria was in the community we called the local nurse to come test us at our Miskito house.

Having our fingers pricked we waited patiently to see if we were positive. Thankfully it was not malaria, but the nurse suggested we drive the 30 minutes into Waspan for further testing. We had further urine and blood tests with the diagnosis of parasites, bladder infection, and were given antibiotics and told to go to Puerto Cabezas for X-rays and a PCR test. Ray, previously having had chikungunya in Guyana, me food poisoning in the Philippines we were hoping it was anything but covid.

Back at the base with no AC in the house and intermittent power to run our small fan, the heat and humidity was overwhelming. I kept us cool by putting towels in the fridge and applying them to cool down and alternating between cold showers so we could get some relief. By morning our fevers were higher, our lungs felt heavier, breathing was

difficult. I was now experiencing tunnel vision; Ray was having anxiety in trying to breathe and our fear was now reaching its peak. We prayed for strength and asked our team back home to pray for us because you can never have enough prayers when in the field. Although Ray was barely able to walk, he decided to medivac us to Puerto Cabeza. Normally it's a 3-hour drive but because we were so sick it was 4 hours and the air conditioner was blowing full blast.

In town, Cezar arranged and took us to a private clinic for PCR tests, from there to the hospital to stand in a long lineup with the locals for x-rays, the hospital having only one machine for the whole RAAN region. X-Rays revealed that we had pneumonia and the pattern of covid lungs.

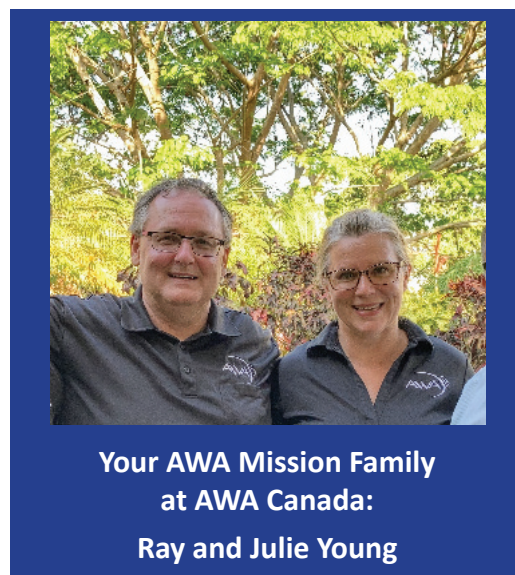
Back at the clinic we were told we had tested positive for covid and parasites. We were given covid protocol medications, and antibiotics with strict directions on how to take it all. The doctor recommended we buy an oxygen meter to monitor our levels and if it reached below 90, we were to come and admit ourselves to the covid wing of the hospital. We were in shock and so sick we did not even realize that we also had no sense of smell or taste until Cezar asked us to smell the hand sanitizer and to our surprise, we could not smell it.

We sought the Lord in prayer to ease our fears, surrendered to His will and whatever outcome may befall us. We then quarantined taking the required protocol medication of five different drugs. Cezar and his wife brought us special local tea to ease our symptoms and checked up on us every few hours. Three days later we risked the drive back to the base where for two weeks we quarantined and rested. Thankfully we recovered from this medical emergency with minor lingering symptoms.

We will always be ready to go again. "As when God calls, we will answer." "Here I am Lord, send me".

Praise be,

Ray and Julie Young



**Your AWA Mission Family
at AWA Canada:
Ray and Julie Young**