



14 DAYS F QUARANTINE

By Kenton Moody

Kenton Moody

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Kenton and Eunice Moody serve as Missionary Pastors in Santa Ana, El Salvador. They were caught by the Corona virus while visiting churches in the United States and unable to return to their home. When the opportunity to return became a possibility, they took the first flight available to be with the people they serve. In doing so, they agreed to 14 days of in home quarantine. These are Kenton's spiritual reflections of this time of isolation. If you want more information about them, visit: www.MoodyMissions.org



14 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“CHACHAMA”

A surprise gift of "chachama", a traditional Salvadoran sweet bread, was brought to our door yesterday by some church members. These are people we have helped through sickness and death, with work, and spiritual growth. They are simply expressing their gratitude with a gift of generosity. We are blessed to enjoy that gift with a nice cup of Salvadoran coffee.

Psalms 112:5 says that good will come to those who are generous. God is a generous Master, freely offering his love, mercy, grace, and compassion to all who desire it. He wants each of us to express our gratitude with a gift of generosity towards others. May God use us today to be blessing!



13 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“FAVORITE FRUITS”

Not being able to return to El Salvador on April 2nd meant we missed the season for mangos and avocados, two of my favorites. But we did make it back in time for the mangosteen and mamey season, two more of my favorites. They are both fruit that don't look very attractive from the outside, but are exotically delicious inside.

My Mom always told us not to judge a book by its cover. Seeing this fruit reminds me not to judge people by their exterior, be it language, religion, color, or culture. Someone may look hard or not too attractive from the outside yet be a wonderful person to get to know on the inside. Peel back a bit of the outer shell and you will find a pleasant surprise.



12 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“CHARGE IT”

My truck has been sitting for 5 months. With no charge to the battery there isn't enough juice left to start the motor. I need to connect to a power source to charge my battery.

We have seen so many people these past four months of quarantine who have lost their charge, have no juice to start their own spiritual motor, and desperately need to connect to a power source. Obviously, that power supply is Jesus, but many lack the personal discipline to read their Bible and pray. They previously depended on the pastor and the church to give them their weekly jumpstart. Now, without the church connection they sit...unmoving, useless, and gathering dust.

Are you just sitting...unmoving, useless, and gathering dust?

1. Connect with God today! Make this a daily habit.

2. Connect with your church online or in person instead of Netflix or Facebook. Support those who have supported you.

3. When you get your spiritual motor running, help someone jumpstart their's.



11 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“THE GENTLE RAIN FROM HEAVEN”

The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest. It blesseth him that gives and him that takes." This famous quote by Shakespeare came to mind as I watch the rain fall this afternoon.

How many times have I received mercy, from God and others? How many times have I shown mercy? I know there is a great imbalance. Matthew 5:7 tells me that I am blessed if I show mercy and the blessing is that I will receive mercy. James 2:13 says that mercy triumphs over judgment.

My prayer is: God, help me judge less and show mercy more.



10 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“THE GRIT & GRIME”

“When we left El Salvador in February, we expected to be back in six weeks. It ended up being five months before we could get home. Here we have two seasons, dusty and wet. Although my office at home was closed up, the dirt and grime seeped in, covering my printer, desk, books, and papers. I spent all day cleaning, wiping down everything.

Where does that dirt come from if the door and window are closed? It comes with the wind and through the tiniest of cracks. The only way to keep it from covering everything, is to clean daily.

In the same way, the dirt and grime of sin seep in to all of our lives through the smallest of cracks...attitudes, thoughts, spiritual laziness, until it covers everything. The only way to maintain a pure heart and life is to clean daily in prayer and the Word of God (Ephesians 5:26). Psalm 51 says, "Wash me clean, purify me from my sins, remove the stain, and create in me a clean heart."

I don't like dirt and grime in my physical or spiritual life. "Cleanse me daily" is my quarantine prayer.



9 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

"I DECIDE IF I OPEN THE GATE OR NOT..."

There is our gate. I can open it at any time and leave. I have gone in and out of this gate hundreds and hundreds of times over the years. I have the key, but have made a commitment not to leave. We agreed to 14 days of quarantine and we are people of our word.

I was thinking about John 10:28. It says nothing can take me out of God's hand...nothing except me. We all can chose to walk out God's hand at any time. It is our decision. We have the key. It is our commitment to Him and His commitment to us that keeps us protected in His hand. I want to be a man of my word and stay inside...in God's presence and in His hand.



8 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

"NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS"

There is an old saying, "No news is good news." That is exactly how we feel today. One week ago, upon arrival at the San Salvador airport, we waited about 3 hours to take our Covid-19 exam. We were a little apprehensive about someone

inserting a swab into our sinus, but were pleasantly surprised when all they did was scratch a little stick in the back of our throat. They told us they would call us in 4-5 days if we are positive and wouldn't contact us if we are negative. They haven't called...

For the Christian, "no news is not good news!" We have news to share. It is that we are all ACTIVE sinners, we need Christ for Spiritual healing/salvation, and the GOOD NEWS is that God gives his grace and mercy to us freely.

We are thankful for "no news" in regards to the Corona Virus, but praise God for His Good News for the world.



7 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“THE LITTLE THINGS”

One small adjustment to being back in El Salvador is that the mosquitoes missed us. I am using a new cologne called Ra-id, plus a handy bracelet that is supposed to ward off the little critters. I have had both dengue and chikungunya several years ago and wouldn't wish them on anyone. It is surprising how the little things can actually be a BIG problem.

The Song of Solomon 2:15 says it is the little foxes that spoil the vine. Generally, I don't even know the

mosquito is near me until I've already been bitten and it has left its small dose of irritant as a reminder of its visit. Little attitudes can be a BIG problem as well. Jealousy, envy, greed, prejudice, anger...they all start small and many times we don't even know they are around until we feel the irritant they leave behind. I highly recommend the Holy Spirit repellent. It works well and leaves the pleasant odor of Christ in our life.



6 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“KENTON’S KLUTTER”

It is a task I've put off for 3 years, always saying I have more important things I should be doing. Cleaning out my storage room does not inspire me. I have construction tools, boxes of receipts, books, almost empty paint cans, and just plain clutter. My Dad grew up in the Depression and saved every screw, nail, and whatever might come in handy one day. I didn't fall too far from the tree.

My storage room reminds me of Hebrews 12:1. It says we need to clean our life of clutter and sin that can creep up on all of us. There are many things we should just let go. It is stuff that we don't need and that really hinders our walk with God and our relationship to others. In my storage room there are things that are useful, but are hidden by all the junk

and trash. In our lives, many times the things of value are hidden behind useless priorities we have never cleaned out of our hearts or habits. It is never too late to or too early to start cleaning the clutter and put your life in order.



5 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“REMEMBER TIKI TORCHES?”

I found these cleaning out my store room, but we haven't used these in almost 3 years and due to carelessness on my part, they don't look good. Some are broken, without a canister or a wick. I have fuel, wicks, and matches, but they are useless unless I get them ready.

So many times we can be careless about our own spiritual condition. If someone looks at us, they can identify that we are Christians, but just like this Tiki torches, we need to be fixed before we can burn a bright light. Matthew 5:16 says we need to let our light shine before men, so they can see our good works and glorify God as a result. I am one of the taller Tiki torches. May my my canister be full of God's fuel, my wick ready, and may I always be in strategic position to shine before men. It is a simple reminder that we need to be ready, Jesus could come any day!



4 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“SPIRITUAL TRAINING IS BETTER”

I have always been pretty skinny (although I like to think of myself as wiry). Two of my brothers have a lot more muscle mass than I. One good advantage is my waistline hasn't changed much since high school. Even though I probably will never be noted as muscular, I know the importance of exercise and am trying to be faithful.

I Timothy 4:8 says physical training is good, but training for Godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and the life to come. My desire is to be God's instrument in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

To be that person, I must exercise spiritually. That means prayer time on my knees every day. For me, it means I read my Bible twice a year every year. If I don't do this, I will be not only be skinny, but spiritually weak. I am not exercising each day so I can say I have physical or spiritual muscles, but for the benefits in this life and the next. That comes from training for Godliness. I challenge you to exercise physically and spiritually!



3 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

"B- IN ACCOUNTING"

My Mom wanted me to be an accountant. She was an expert with figures and did other people's income taxes for a living. I made a B- in accounting in high school and didn't even like balancing my checkbook. Being an accountant wasn't for me. God called me to be a missionary! But God also has a sense of humor. Being a missionary means I have to do regular financial reports and am responsible for 40 employees and a large budget. The photo is of all the receipts and reports I have turned in over the past several years.

Romans 14:12-13 says each of us will give a personal account to God. We must decide to live a life that will not cause someone else to stumble and fall.

Technically, we are all accountants. Ever idle word, every thought, every secret action...we are simply adding them to our account. Thank God for his grace that covers a multitude of sins. We can say that our account was settled on the Cross long ago.



2 MORE DAYS OF QUARANTINE

“MANGOS!”

I love mangos. We have 5 mango trees on our property. The big one in the photo is about 120 years old. It produces thousands of mangos each year. We eat mangos until they're coming out of our ears. I make a great mango pie, and we give most of them away. The small tree is a delicious Panades mango and is about 2 years old but hasn't produced anything yet. The other three trees produce shade and not much else. I know they are

mango trees by their leaves even though there is no fruit.

John 15:16 says we were called to produce lasting fruit. Thankfully there are many Christians today who produce a lot of fruit, enough to bless many. There are others who are just starting and with some spiritual encouragement will do great in the years to come. Then there are others who are known as Christians, but not for their fruit, rather their shade. Their leaf identifies them what they are. Their lack of fruit identifies who they are. I read in Mark 11 this morning how Jesus cursed the fig tree for only producing leaves and no fruit.

In the tropical heat of El Salvador, I am thankful for any shade a tree offers, but in my spiritual walk, I want to be known for my fruit and not my shade! What identifies you, fruit or shade?



THE LAST DAY OF QUARANTINE

“SHUT IN”

Was it easy to stay put for 14 days and not leave the house? Not really! We are glad to be home in El Salvador. There was a lot of cleaning and arranging to do, sermons to prepare, and things to be repaired. But we are active people and wanted to see our family, congregation and friends. But we were shut in and followed the quarantine rules as we had agreed to do when the government let us return.

It is never easy to be shut in. It reminds me of an old chorus we used to sing in church years ago...“Shut in with God in a secret place, There in the Spirit beholding His face; Gaining more Power to run in the race, I love to be shut in with God.” I read today in Exodus 34 how Moses was shut in for

40 days and 40 nights on the mountain with God and didn't eat or drink anything. Jonah was shut in for 3 days in the belly of a big fish. Elijah was shut in by Kerith creek and his only visitor was a bird who brought him food. Paul spent 3 years hiding in Arabia after his conversion. All of these quarantines built character and dependency upon God instead of self.

In these 14 days of quarantine in El Salvador, God has taught me to be patient, that my timing is not his timing, and the importance of fellowship and connection with others. Don't fear a time of quarantine. Unmolested by distractions, we can grow in God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kenton, a timid country boy, felt a call of God on his life at age nine to be a missionary. He prepared himself educationally and spiritually and began working with hispanics in the U.S. later serving as a missionary in Panama with the Assemblies of God and then as the International Director for Convoy of Hope, a compassion organization. God specifically spoke to him to come to Santa Ana to work with the children and youth as an Assemblies of God missionary. Kenton and his wife Eunice serve those with economic and spiritual needs, reaching out to children, youth, gang members and the poor. Their vision to help others continues to expand the ministry.

EL SALVADOR



El Salvador is one of the most dangerous countries in the world compounded by gang violence, fatherless children, and poverty. The Moodys, as Assemblies of God

Missionaries, are transforming lives through community development initiatives in the city of Santa Ana. The Hosanna School is only five years old, but has 405 needy students from kindergarten through high school. We teach education with excellence, Biblical values, and love. The



Center of Hope teaches hundreds of children, youth, and adults practical skills such as homework reinforcement, English, computer, baking, cooking, music and cosmetology. The Open Door Church with approximately 200 members reaches hundreds more offering physical and

spiritual healing through the La Puerta Abierta Clinic, single mother groups, construction of homes, discipleship, and a spiritual connection to God.



PARTNER WITH US...

Our hope is that these short devotions have been an encouragement to your life and spirit. God is doing great things in El Salvador through the generosity of people just like yourself. Your generous gift will help us continue to fund our mission to help those in need. Together, we can make a difference.

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