



Current Situation Seniors – Good Samaritan Center Soacha – Bogota April 16, 2020

Mission greetings dear friends of Good Samaritan Society! Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Colombian government issued the order for all people over the age of 70 to be quarantined until May 30th. This presidential order must be complied with throughout the country in order is to protect the elderly who are the most vulnerable population. Though seniors are not coming to the Center, we are in regular contact with them and their families via phone. The seniors highly value this ongoing spiritual connection.

Other restrictions are in place for the rest of the population. Schools and universities must work, also until May 30th via the internet. By order of the government, all organizations must also pay the salaries of their employees, which in our case includes Maria our cook, Elisa our nurse and my half-time position as coordinator of the project.



The seniors of the Good Samaritan Center in Soacha are also complying with the government orders. They have been confined to their homes since March 23rd; some are alone while others are with a relative who lives with them. Right now, the situation is very critical because all live in a situation of economic vulnerability. Some of their relatives cannot go to work due to the moving restrictions. This is generating a real food crisis in families since nobody has money to buy food for the family.

On behalf of the seniors being served by the Good Samaritan Center in Soacha, we are making you aware of this critical situation and we are kindly asking urgent help. The provisional plan agreed to in our conversation with Pastor Greg Wilcox is to provide seniors with one food package during the months of May and June. By then we hope the quarantine could be lifted. This provisional way guarantees that seniors and their family can have some basic food to survive this crisis.



The basic food package includes these foods: noodles, wheat soup, corn soup, cooking oil, butter, wheat flour, 30 eggs, corn flour, coffee, rice, salt biscuits, sweet biscuits, panela, oatmeal, beans, peas, salt, milk, chocolate, onions, cumin, tuna, sugar. The cost per package is equivalent to \$30.00 (US Dollars). At the current time we are serving 29 seniors.



Besides the valuable gift of your ongoing prayers, if the Good Lord so places in your heart to respond with a financial gift, please make your check payable to Good Samaritan Society clearly earmarked as Project Outreach-Colombia. Please mail your gift in care of Gail Deckert to the **Good Samaritan National Campus at 4800 W. 57th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57108**. Good Samaritan Society will timely transfer these gifts to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia for this particular purpose.

For your prayers, your personal visits here and your ongoing generosity, thanks be to God! To follow ongoing news please join our Facebook group called **Buen Samaritano Soacha**. Feel free to share this newsletter with family and friends! May God bless us anew with the healing compassion as Good Samaritans. Amen.