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*Sent Through The
Independent Baptist
Fellowship International*
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Dear Friends,

McAllen, Texas, has been a Covid-19 hotspot for a while. We have been encouraged to shelter at home for a couple of months now. Several people in our church have tested positive. Several have friends and family members who have passed away due to this illness. Thankfully, our church people are recovering, and many have already recovered!

We continue to have church services Sunday morning (two services to keep numbers low) and Thursday evening. We have online services Sunday evenings. We also have Sunday Schools for children and teens online. I have been teaching the children and can see them respond during the live videos. Technology is AMAZING!

Speaking of technology, our Virtual VBS in July went very well. There were eight adults at the church each night to help with the online program. We sang, had an object lesson, a Bible lesson, crafts, snacks, and games every night. We prepared the snack/craft materials for the children in town who registered ahead of time and put them in ocean-themed bags to hand out. We had a great response with children and parents sending in pictures of the kids doing the crafts and putting together the snacks. They were able to answer questions and win prizes by commenting on Facebook and Youtube Live videos. Reports are that the kids loved it! We had kids from our church participating and kids from different parts of the US and Mexico! Each night the gospel was given and an example of how to pray and put your faith in Jesus. We also gave numbers to call if anyone wanted help or had questions about accepting Jesus. To my knowledge, no one has called, but I know seeds were planted, and God will one day give the harvest.

Not long before VBS was to occur, I was taken to the emergency room with severe abdominal pain. After several tests, they discovered that I have some large ovarian cysts. I thank God that He gave me the strength to participate in VBS as I gave the Bible story each night. Please pray for me, as this is a very painful condition. After much waiting due to McAllen being a COVID hotspot, I will soon see my doctor to discuss treatment. Please pray specifically that I would not require surgery. Also, doctors and ER visits are very expensive. Please pray God provides for my financial needs. The ER bill is very large, and if you would like to contribute in any way, I would greatly appreciate it. You can send a love offering to my home church, Worth Baptist Church in Fort Worth, or to my mission agency, Independent Baptist Fellowship International, in Fort Worth.

There are pictures of our Virtual VBS on the back of this letter.

Update:

After writing this letter, I had to have an emergency surgery to remove a large ovarian cyst. I thank God that the surgery went as planned, and my mother could rush down to McAllen for a few days to help me during my recovery. I am still recovering, although my mother has returned to her home and work, and I will follow up with the doctor next week.

Melissa Houston

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