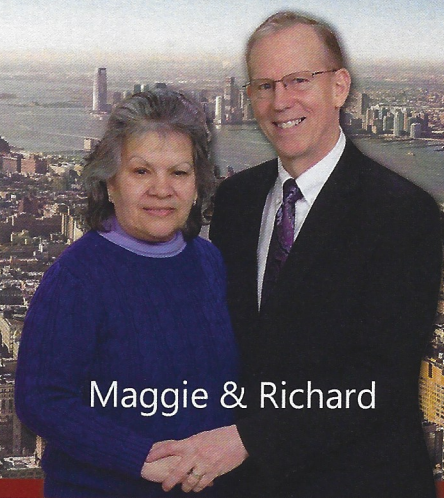


# The JOHNSONS

## Church Planters in New York City



Maggie & Richard

Summer, 2020

Greetings in Jesus' Name:

NYC has been a literal Reality Show the past few months. The Mayor seems intent on politicizing every development to the detriment of its citizens. COVID-19 and BLM are perhaps just two examples of this long-standing trend. Recently, NYPD called to include our Church in its "Official Report" to the Commish. The officer had three questions: 1) Are people allowed to come into your building and pray without an appointment, just random off the street; 2) Are you holding any Services that are open to the general public; 3) If you are closed, when do you intend on re-opening. Clearly, these are strange days when the Police monitor the *House of Prayer* for those who seek to pray "without an appointment."

Our Church never closed its doors. The virus is very real, and has claimed some dear saints. But, the response of our leaders seems very fake and political. The Mayor insists that all large gatherings **except for BLM** will be shut down. He threatens any Church or synagogue that does not follow his dictates (yes that's correct, Mosques were not mentioned) will be closed permanently. My impression is that until the Presidential election in November, *this is the new normal* ... then, this mirage will vanish away.

One of the saddest things has been COVID funerals. A pandemic of fear rules the day as restrictions on size/location reign supreme. We cannot gather except at Graveside. Families wait weeks for a slot and then are rushed through because crowds are backed up. Imagine being told that your family is too large, and some cannot attend the funeral, while rioters and looters have no restrictions at all. Yet, in spite of difficult circumstances, God has seen fit to increase our coats. We seemed to find a "loophole" in the terminology of LiveStreaming that allowed us to have "essential personnel" of up to 10-15 people. We then just rotate who comes (if need be) to which particular Service. Facebook Live has allowed us to reach some new people! Please pray for some of the new folks that have been coming during the Crisis:

**Scott** - Looking for a new Church and seems to feel comfortable

**Abbigail** - Just started coming before COVID and has returned with great joy

**Mendy** - A Jewish man with some handicaps, a great challenge

**Barbara** - Has come for a month straight and really enjoys the Services

**Ogame** - a saved Homeless man who suffered a breakdown over Mom's death

**Bill** - has returned after three year absence to again serve the Lord with great zeal

Our family is well, as only our daughter Leah, caught the virus. She has fully recovered and it has been a joy to see her and be able to hug her neck once more. Thank you as well for all the prayers, faithful support, phone calls and cards. Several have called more than once just to check on us... and it is touching to be more than just a "missionary on a list." Please continue to pray for us. Perhaps this is the persecution we need to spark the Revival so many have been praying for.

Because He Lives,

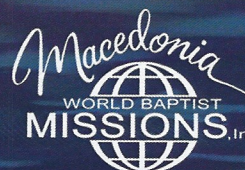
*Richard & Maggie*

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