



21st March 2020

Dear friends,

In the light of the incredible challenges we face globally, I'm writing to update you on how Coronavirus is impacting Novō - and to ask for your help.

Whilst we are well behind Europe and North America, the virus is now in Bolivia with new cases developing each day. There are real concerns as to how the healthcare system here will cope should the virus take hold to the extent that it has in Italy and elsewhere. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus the government has closed schools and imposed a range of social-distancing measures. Within the last few minutes a 14-day full-quarantine has been announced. We now wait prayerfully, hoping that these measures prove effective.

Within Novō we are adopting all sensible measures to protect staff and residents and will comply with the terms of the quarantine, whilst still delivering 24/7 supervision and the core elements of our programme. We are aided in this by having team members who live on-site at Quinta Totaices. **These will be challenging times for all but we are totally committed to continuing to operate as a community which offers freedom and new life in Christ to those who need us – whether they have come from the streets and drainage canals of the city or from family situations.**

Why?

Firstly, because this is what God has called us to do. We intend to be faithful to the calling He has given to us as a charity and individuals – “God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).

Secondly, because for those who join our programme – along with their families – the threat posed by addiction is at least as great as the threat posed by Coronavirus. Addiction destroys lives. Addiction takes lives.

I do, however, want to ask for your help. We continue to depend heavily on one-off donations to sustain this work and we are drawing close to the limit of our resources. We have a month of operating funding in place, along with a reserve of one month's funding. In other words, we are looking to God for His provision now.

In part, this immediate need is simply part and parcel of walking by faith – of making plans before God, being obedient, and trusting Him to provide along the way. These ‘pinch points’ come as God keeps us conscious of our dependence on Him.

In part, this need is a direct result of the Coronavirus, which came hot on the heels of the national strike (following the fraudulent presidential elections) which shut down Bolivia for Q4 of 2019. This has all hit Novō Adventures hard. Having ended 2019 poorly we were just starting to see bookings coming-in when

Coronavirus hit. As you'd expect, we are currently without confirmed rental or tour bookings for 2020, leaving us with a big hole in relation to our budgeted income for Novō Communities.

How can you help?

- 1) **Above all – and as always – by praying.** God is our provider and we serve at His pleasure. He empowers and comforts us during difficult times.
- 2) **By making a donation to Novō Communities.** All donations (big, small, one-off, regular) really do make a huge impact. Quite literally, they keep the doors open.

All the info you need to make a donation in the UK, Canada or the US can be found on the (soon to be updated), Novō Communities websites here: www.novocommunities.org/donate/

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch. And don't forget you can see more of what we're up to on the ground here on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) – and, if you missed it, you can catch-up with our latest newsletter here: [Novō News](#).

With thanks for your love and support.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andy

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