

Dear Friends of The Trinitarian Church of Northfield, MA.

Joanne Mcghee has told me that she wants to share with you a little bit of the medical work I have been doing in Guinope with regular and covid patients.

First of all, tell you that I was hired by the mayor of Guinope for a period of 3 months, of which I have been for a month and a half already. Sadly, the government manages the funds very badly and it is time that I haven not been paid yet. I hope that by October 15th I will be paid two months or at least one month of work. The salary that I was promised was \$ 500 less taxes which is 12.5% plus 1% charged by the government. Sadly, if there is no payment by this date, I will have to stop working because I cannot be here without any payment. I have to pay for transportation, food, and stuff, and all that costs money.

Well, to begin with, I want to tell you that the situation due to covid in the town and in all its villages was a bit difficult in the beginning, but thank God, for now we have controlled a little more the situation of contaminated people.

Part of my job is educating people about the disease. Talk to them about the contamination mechanism, symptoms, diagnostic tests, treatment and above all, prevention.

It is also my job to go from house to house throughout the town of Guinope and its villages. The municipality of Guinope has 10 villages and 49 hamlets.

Within my field work, besides educating people, I have to ask about respiratory symptoms, if I find them, and I consider clinically that it may be covid, I do a rapid test for covid, and I give treatment if I have it with me, otherwise I refer them to the Guinope Public Health Center to be treated.

Now, if there are no respiratory symptomatic patients, then I also look for patients with chronic degenerative diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes. I review these patients, talk to them about their illness, and ask if they are taking their treatment. Unfortunately, most of these people are older, they do not have the money to pay for their medication and they are obviously not controlled. Their complaint is that they have no money and there is never medicine for their illnesses at the Public Health Center.

It is also part of my job to evaluate children for any other type of disease, children of all ages, look for pregnant women who are not in their prenatal control and also look for puerperal women, to check them and also their newborns.

As you can see, a comprehensive job is done, not just looking for and treating patients with covid.

In 3 of the largest villages in Guinope, I Visit their small Public Health Center to check pregnant women, and also give talks about covid or any other health situation and see people in General. I visit these clinics once in a while.

It is quite a difficult and tiring job, because I have to walk every day from place to place, from house to house, many times consulting and treating all these people who do not have a nearby doctor available. They get so happy to know that I am a doctor, and that I can help them with their health problem. I am the one who gets incredibly sad because I cannot do much for these people. I cannot solve their health problem, and I do not have medicines with me, and many times I only get to tell them how bad their health situation is and worry them even more.

As for the situation due to the covid in the town and its surroundings, I can only tell you that it is under control. We do not have serious patients, the people who have been contaminated have not had the need to go to the hospital and are in their homes isolated and in quarantine. We look for all the contacts of these people and I keep them close in case any of them have symptoms. Since I have been here, I can say with certainty that no one in Guinope has died, nor in its surroundings from covid. The villages are kept clean of covid, and most of the contaminated people are in the town of Guinope.

I am sending some photos and videos of my work. I hope you like it.

Kenia Yolani Cruz.