

Vergara Family
Talo, Patty, Lucas & Matias

FEBRUARY 2023

Serving through **GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them. For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

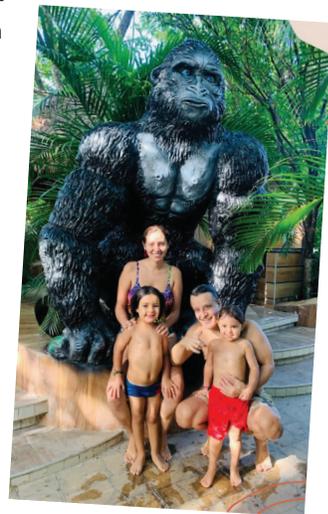
— Deuteronomy 31:6

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Another year gone! Time seems to run faster every year, which reminds us to value the opportunities God gives us with those we love most. Last year was a challenging one with a lot of work, but God gave us the strength and wisdom to succeed. We enjoy being challenged especially when the effort is rewarded with God's blessings. So we would like to share some of the ways our Sovereign God has been showing His love, provision and support.

FAMILY – TALO, PATTY, LUCAS AND MATIAS

One of the big challenges of life for us as parents is organizing our lives to spend time and enjoy our children. They grow so fast! Lucas is turning 5 next February and will be ready to start kindergarten. It is exciting to see him growing! He is already learning to read and write through our homeschool program. Matias, who turned 3 in December, is learning many things right alongside his brother, although he requires more interactive learning in the homeschool process. We are thankful for God's care in their lives and for providing all our family with the means to raise them.



CENTRO BÍBLICO DE LA GRACIA (CBG) - BIBLE TRAINING CENTER

CBG will resume classes in February. As always, we are concerned about quality teachers and having everything ready to start a new year of classes. We have many things to prepare before the beginning of classes, but God continues to lead us. The virtual classes offer a great possibility to have quality teachers from overseas. Last trimester we were able to have our great friend and former missionary in Bolivia, Frosty Hansen, as well as Cleiton Menor who is a GMI missionary in Paraguay.

Thank you for your prayers and support that have greatly helped CBG provide a quality education for our students. It's encouraging to see how the Lord is leading many to study and prepare themselves to serve Him.

DAR MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS

DAR is an outreach ministry run by Emanuel Church. It is the only ministry among all our grace churches geared towards non-Christians. Its purpose is to reach and minister to the homeless that live in a street canal near that local church. Despite being a challenging ministry, it is wonderful to be a help to the forgotten and despised in society. Few people help at DAR, but the idea is to give a hand to the most needy by providing them with medical attention, a meal, bathroom, showers, personal hygiene and clothes. DAR tries to be a light in obedience to what our Lord says in Matthew 25:40 by getting to know them better and sharing the message of the love of our Savior with them.



Talo has been challenging more believers among the leaders of Emanuel Church and the Misión Evangelica Bethesda (MEB) to be more supportive and appreciative of this ministry. Thankfully, both leadership boards have answered positively and have recently started to support DAR.

Thank you for supporting DAR. Your prayers and donations have allowed this ministry to continue serving and sharing the gospel to this forgotten and hopeless group of people.



OTHER MINISTRIES

Besides directing, administrating and teaching classes at CBG, Talo continues supporting our local churches. The MEB has asked Talo to serve as a spiritual advisor when there are problems and complicated issues. This is a great responsibility, especially since it is time- and mind-consuming with meetings and trips to La Paz. Talo also preaches frequently at our churches, including as part of the pastoral leadership team at Emanuel Church where he assists with organizational and pastoral needs. So most Sundays he is in the pulpit at one of the churches, and often advising pastors and board members one place or another.

Patty has been leading the women's group at Emanuel Church for three months. She has been teaching and organizing different activities. This has given her a wonderful opportunity to serve, get to know these women better and strengthen her friendship with them. It has become clear that there is a lack of women who are prepared to teach the Bible, so her goal is to educate them in the Scriptures, encouraging them to study and prepare themselves so that they can train younger women.

Patty is also taking classes at CBG and participating with the MEB women's committee. She designs all the graphic publications to promote CBG classes for each trimester. In addition, she is homeschooling Lucas and Matias and dealing with the responsibilities of being a wife and a mother.

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PRAISES:

- ▶ PTL for 2022, a successful year for CBG, expanding our program and offering three trimesters with an average of over 30 students.
- ▶ PTL for the strong support we have received from many of you. The Hansens have been instrumental in boosting our financial situation. We miss them greatly in Bolivia and we are very thankful for their continuing heart for Bolivia and for us as a family.
- ▶ PTL for how the Lord has helped Talo take on responsibility as a spiritual advisor for the MEB leadership as they deal with some difficult situations.
- ▶ PTL Marta Cordero will be coming in March to serve in Bolivia for one year. She will be helping in administration at CBG and serving in our grace churches.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- ▶ Pray for wisdom for Talo as he organizes CBG and supports churches and MEB.
- ▶ Pray for the students at CBG, that God will encourage them as they study His Word.
- ▶ Pray for the continuing challenge we have at CBG to find qualified teachers each trimester.
- ▶ Pray for our marriage and for wisdom to guide our boys.
- ▶ Pray For Patty homeschooling the boys, for her challenge with women and for her classes at CBG.



SHARING
God's Grace
WITH THE **WORLD**