

# The Hodgsons' Update

## Missionary life in Paraguay

Cory, Kim, Naomi, Elijah, and Timothy

March 2022

Dear Friends,

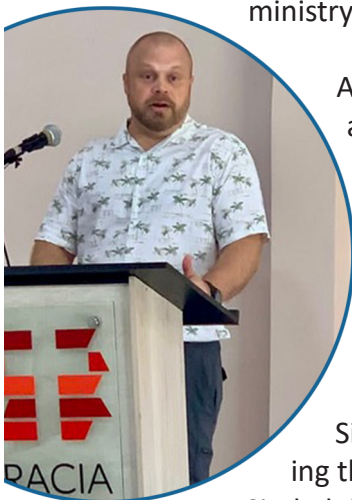
Greetings from Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. It is hard to believe that six months have elapsed since our last prayer letter. A lot has happened in that time, and it has gone very quickly for us. We are still enduring one of the hottest summers in memory; we are deeply grateful for our air conditioners. It has stayed in the mid to upper 90s for the last several months, with many times into the triple digits. During the summertime in Paraguay there is usually a slowdown in church ministries, but our schedule has remained full.

There are a lot of new ministries happening in Paraguay right now, and even across the border in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. Our colleague, Cleiton Menor, is Brazilian, and he has relatives in the aforementioned city. Through his contacts, we have started a Bible study there on Monday evenings. Most of the attendees come from churches with very shallow doctrinal teachings (or none at all) and they are hungry for God's Word. Cory has had the opportunity to teach at the study several times (with a translator). The people ask great questions and really want the Bible study to turn into a church. Could you please pray for this ministry? We need a strong Brazilian leader to shepherd the group and lead the efforts to develop a church.

Our team is also excited for a new church plant in the neighboring city of Presidente Franco. The church is meeting in a rental property on a busy street corner and has already had two worship services. Our goal with this church is to reach new people in that city and to loudly proclaim the gospel to its neighborhood. Please pray for Jerry Bomers and Cleiton Menor as they spearhead this ministry and seek out strong Paraguayan leaders.



The finished exterior of the church



Cory preaching at the first sermon of 2022

Alex Gulart has been cultivating relationships with people in northern Paraguay, in an area called the Chaco. He has been meeting with them virtually for a long time and has made several trips. There is a couple there who could lead a potential church plant, and the people are eager to transition from a Bible study group to a church. Could you please pray for these people, and for wisdom as we move forward with this ministry?

Since February, Cory has been teaching the weekly Bible study at the original Ciudad del Este church on the book of Romans. This has been a valuable experience for Cory to improve his Spanish, dig into God's Word, and connect with the church members. The Bible study provides an



Worshipping in the finished sanctuary

atmosphere for questions and rich discussion surrounding the text of the evening. Please pray for Cory as he prepares the lessons and interacts with the students each week.



English Bible study in our home

Kim has been teaching English at church each Saturday. She teaches the advanced class and has a consistent student base. There are several students who do not attend the church; please pray that they will be impacted with the gospel and with the positive church atmosphere.



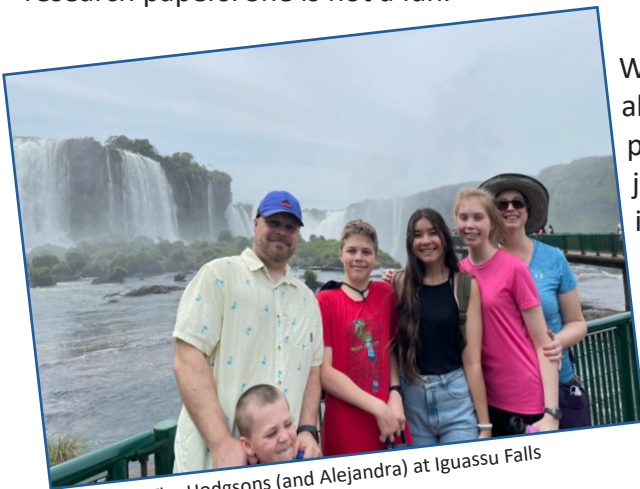
Cory teaching a Bible study on Romans at the church

Cory and Naomi will be taking a Spanish exam in May. This test evaluates fluency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing. They will be testing for the B1 level (A1 is lowest, C2 is highest). This will be especially useful for Naomi when she looks for work in the future in the US, as it is an internationally accepted proof of fluency. Cory continues to take Spanish classes twice per week which has helped immensely in his teaching and preaching endeavors.



Timmy and a classmate at their end-of-year presentation

The kids are busy at school. In Paraguay, the school year begins mid-February, so they are only about one month into their year. Elijah is in eighth grade and enjoying his classes and friends. This is his first year with a locker. Timmy is at a different school close to Elijah's school and is loving the second grade. This is Timmy's first year having full days of school, so we pack him a snack and lunch each day. Naomi is studying from home using an American homeschool curriculum. She wanted to have a year of school in English before she goes to university in 2023. Please pray for her as her classes are all self-led and she has a lot of math to figure out. She is also being introduced to essay writing and research papers. She is not a fan.



The Hodgsons (and Alejandra) at Iguazu Falls

We are so thankful for your prayers and support. We are continually reminded in the Scriptures to pray for one another: your prayers for our family and ministry keep us afloat. It is truly a joy to be part of the Body of Christ and to lift one another up in prayer. We hope this letter has given you some ways to pray more specifically for our ministries.

In His service,

Cory, Kim, Naomi, Elijah, and Timothy Hodgson