



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Paraguay! While many of you are slowly emerging from the long, cold Northern winter, Paraguay has been experiencing record-level heat. For a few days last week, Paraguay registered the hottest temperatures on earth, with a heat index of 116 F (47 C). With these extreme temperatures, we are very grateful to have air conditioning! As we write to you this month, we are commemorating twenty years of serving the Lord with Grace Ministries International. We are thankful for your partnership with us and for God's goodness and mercy through the years!

Once again, the last six months have flown by. We had a strong finish to our 2025 ministry cycle, including a nine-week online course on the church's basic doctrines via Zoom, reaching many of our church family here who normally cannot make it to our Bible studies. We uploaded these classes to YouTube, so the lessons are instantly accessible.

After the holidays, work began in earnest on the church's new classroom spaces. Thanks to many generous donations from our stateside supporters and from the church here, we were able to replace rotting drywall sections with brick and construct two brand-new classrooms. There were two men in the congregation here who made the project possible, paying attention to the details of the work, overseeing the workers, and generally moving things along.

During the holiday break, we purchased new chairs for the kids' program at our Km 5.5 property in the La Blanca neighborhood, where we plan to start a new church this year. Before this purchase, the kids had to sit on the ground for story time or for singing. Now, thanks to the funds donated through last year's Giving Opportunities catalog, we have sturdy, comfortable chairs for the kids to use and enjoy.

We also have some new things happening at the GMI-affiliated church, Iglesia Bíblica Bereana. Starting in March, rather than holding our Wednesday evening Bible study, we will offer a Sunday school class for adults and children. There will be 45 minutes for Sunday school, followed by a brief coffee break and then the worship service. This change will free up some time during the week for people to connect and spend more time with friends and neighbors. We will also be starting a youth gathering every Saturday evening.

On February 24th, Cory and our GMI colleague Cleiton Menor drove to Asuncion, Paraguay's capital, to pick up our new team members, Juan and Lucrecia Chavez, and their two precious children, Emma and Lucas.



Merry Christmas from Paraguay!



Kids enjoying their new Sunday school classroom



The children in our Saturday morning kids' program enjoying their new chairs!

They have been preparing for some time to make the journey south to Paraguay, and we are eager to have them as part of our team here in Ciudad del Este. Their experience in church ministries, especially with youth, will be an invaluable addition to the ministries here.

With a full team of missionaries, we will be shifting some of our ministry focus back to our property in the La Blanca neighborhood at Km 5.5, where we hope to plant a new church with the help and support of our existing congregation at Iglesia Bíblica Bereana. There are many communities and neighborhoods in the vicinity with no solid, Bible-teaching churches. There are a few families at Bereana that live closer to the Km 5.5 building who are willing to be part of the church-planting effort, which will create more opportunities for teaching, evangelism, and discipleship. Please pray for this important work!

On the family front, we are busy as usual. This year, we decided to begin homeschooling Timmy, and overall, that is going well. Elijah began his senior year of high school, and this past Tuesday, we celebrated his “last-first day” of school (a big deal in Paraguay). There was a band, fireworks, and a special breakfast put on by the school. Elijah recently got his Paraguayan driver’s license and, with a little more practice, will be ready for the road. Elijah’s school robotics team won a national tournament last year, so they will be going to St. Louis, Missouri, in April to compete on the international level. Naomi continues to work hard at Grace Christian University, and we hope to have her here in Paraguay for her summer break.

As we continue with our church planting, theological education, and leadership development ministry here in Paraguay, we are very thankful for your prayers and support. They are critical to our work and to building the Body of Christ in this part of Paraguay.

Here are some of our prayer requests:

- For Timmy, as he adjusts to a new school schedule and much more time with mom and dad.
- For Elijah, as he has a very busy last year of high school.
- For Kim, as she works with the other moms of Elijah’s classmates to facilitate different events.
- For the Chavez family as they adjust to life in Paraguay.
- For Naomi’s health and strength as she works hard to finish her third year at Grace Christian University.

In His Service,

The Hodgson Family



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SCAN to give online



Elijah on his Last-First Day of School, Senior year 2026



Celebrating Elijah’s victory after his robotics team qualified for the international finals in St. Louis this April



New church classroom construction, January 2026



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