

Bomers in Paraguay

May 2020



Nana and Papa

Hello Everyone,

We hope that this letter finds you well during these very interesting times. It has been an eventful 6 months for us as we strive to develop a strong community of believers prepared to make a difference here in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. In December, our team was encouraged to finish our first semester of theology classes with a group of students who were eager to learn and had a desire to share their faith. One of the students told the class that she had lived many years feeling anxious and scared that she was not a good enough person to please God. She went on to explain that after her first semester, she is filled with gratitude for the grace that she has received freely from Jesus Christ and that her righteousness could only be credited to His sacrifice. Two of the young men from the church also had moving experiences after seeing the timeline of the Bible laid out with a detailed explanation of how God has made Himself known to us throughout time. One of them with tears in his eyes, simply said, "Wow!" while the other said, "Look at my arms...I have goosebumps." These are just a few examples of how the Word of God has been working in the hearts of some of the people here.



English Classes

Also in December, we were able to create some new memories, as we ended the year with a church-wide cookout at a nearby park. It was certainly a great community building experience, which further solidified our two churches that had merged six months prior. Sandi's parents came down from Alaska for the beginning of December, which was the perfect way to start the holiday season by sharing time with loved ones from the US. We ended the calendar year with two well-attended church services, which is not common here as Christmas and the New Year are the peak of summer in Paraguay and many people are vacationing. Our team celebrated New Year's Eve at the wedding of a friend whom we had the privilege of hosting in our home for five weeks in May.

Moving into the New Year we were looking forward to my mother surprising Addison on her birthday, but unfortunately her flights were delayed for multiple days due to weather in the US. Cory Hodgson and I (Jerry) set out late at night to pick her up in Asuncion, which is five and a half hours away. We started experiencing some overheating with the van, immediately followed by blowing out a tire in downpouring rain and finally the van stopped functioning halfway through the trip. By the grace of God, the young man who stopped to look at my van was an acquaintance of my first Paraguayan friend, Luis. He was kind enough to drive me the rest of the way to pick up my mom and managed all the repairs for the van after we continued our journey home on the bus. With all that had happened, we were still able to keep Granny's arrival a surprise for the kids.



Home Bible Study

As we transitioned into fall in the Southern Hemisphere, we were looking forward to ministries coming together once again. Sandi and GMI Missionary Kim Hodgson were providing an English class which was well attended. We had also just started a new Bible study in our home, directed toward meeting new people from our area. Cory and I were quite pleased with the turnout for the theology classes and the enthusiasm of the students. The young adult ministry was going well, with some of the participants planning on helping with a children's ministry that was in development. On March 9, I was telling Sandi that I didn't know if we would have a free night of the week for a while, as I was considering a new opportunity to serve with a martial arts program in schools. On March 10, we received the word that all schools would be closed as precautionary measures for COVID-19. The next day the order that all churches refrain from meeting went into effect, which transitioned into full lockdown that same week.

We are currently holding live church services on Facebook, with our national Pastor Juan Carlos preaching primarily, along with members of our team. After the first week, we opened our theology class to continue electronically. During this time, we've been in touch with our church family via social media and helping those in need by providing food and assistance whenever we can. Please be in prayer for us as we continue to look to God, as He opens doors for opportunities to serve and build a stronger community of believers here. It has certainly been a source of inspiration to see how our church family has been encouraging one another on social media and going out to help their brothers and sisters in Christ during such challenging times. Please be in prayer for the people of Paraguay, as it is a culture of many people not living paycheck to paycheck, but literally day to day. Paraguay was not prepared for this virus in so many ways, but it is our desire to bring glory to God through these events by sharing His love and the message of His grace. We are incredibly grateful for all who have supported our family and ministry. Thank you so much for faithfully supporting us through prayer, encouragement and giving.

With utmost gratefulness,
JERRY, SANDI, ADDI, CLAY AND CORA BOMERS



Church Picnic



Granny at Addi's Birthday



Local Market



"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him."

Psalms 103:11

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