



*I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned to fables But watch you in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry.*

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul's exhortation to Timothy echoes in our hearts. In this almost a year and a half of ministry in Paraguay our constant prayer has been for God to show us doors of opportunity for the gospel. And indeed, the Lord has shown us many opportunities. We have traveled through different cities in Paraguay and seen closely different scenarios and realities in the country. Along with the political, economic, and social problems that are evident is the spiritual problem. There is no perfect society in the world because human beings are not perfect, and we know this from Scripture. All has to do with the problem of sin.

Since its beginnings, Paraguay has received a wrong recipe of the "bread of life." Catholicism is the predominant religion. It is common to hear from its followers that eternal life can be inherited by seeking piety, practicing charity, and being faithful to the (Catholic) Church—a "gospel" that mentions Jesus but positions Him as an aide to the salvation I'm working for. After all, good works are the currency that can purchase God's forgiveness that comes from the cross. In this way many Paraguayans live an endless and still uncertain search for God's forgiveness. How we yearn for an opportunity to explain to them that God offers complete redemption freely by His Grace through faith in the work of His Son Jesus Christ!

The other face of Christianity that is growing in Paraguay is that of those who have distanced themselves from the "preaching of the cross" to the "preaching of personal motivation." They consider themselves evangelical believers, and their most quoted catchphrase is, "You are a champion!" Other ones like "you will succeed," and "God has the best for you" are also very common. For many of these, Jesus came to earth solely to make them happy and prosperous. There is no message of salvation. Sin ceases to be what separates us from God and what puts us under His righteous judgment and becomes only that which prevents us from being happier in this life. Again, there is no gospel! They don't want God's forgiveness. They are just looking for another victory for their collection and Jesus is the best coach of all. Obviously, we don't agree with that stance either.



Borean Bible Church



Laura, Elisa, and Lucas in school



Viviane and Gloria teaching the kids in church

However, we strive to demonstrate through the Scriptures that Christ is the Lord and Savior of all who believe in His redemptive work on the cross. We proclaim the wonderful message of God's saving grace. Although there are some who reject it, we have seen many people embrace the faith with sincerity and conviction in their hearts. Each Bible study or sermon we give, people are increasingly interested in knowing the Lord Jesus through the Bible.

### **BEREAN FRANCO**

Our team is in the process of planting a second church in Paraguay, located in the city of Presidente Franco. Berean Bible Church of P. Franco held its first service on March 6. Our family heads this work with the Bomers family, our GMI coworkers. We are raising funds to cover the installation and set-up costs of this new site. If you wish to help with this project, you can do so online at [www.gracem.org](http://www.gracem.org)>Projects>Paraguay **Franco Church** or by sending your gift through the mail.



*Cleiton and Rodrigo at the prison in Encarnación*

### **FOZ DO IGUAÇU - BRAZIL**

Since last year we have been conducting Bible studies in the Brazilian city of Foz do Iguaçu, bordering Paraguay right across the river from us. There is a faithful group of participants there who yearn and pray for a church where the sound doctrine of Scripture is taught. Some of this group came to the faith through these studies. We are praying that God will raise among them men who desire to be trained to serve and lead so this group may become an indigenous church one day.



*Bible studies in Foz - Brazil*

### **ENCARNACION - PARAGUAY**

We thank God for the life of a young Paraguayan evangelist, Rodrigo Paredes, whom God used to open this door. It was through him, his family, and contacts that we got free access to the prison to visit and hold services there. We implemented the correspondence Bible course of our partner organization, Prison Mission Association, in one of the main prisons of Paraguay located in the city of Encarnación, five hours from where we live. Currently, more than 30 inmates are enrolled in our "Noble Berean Bible Course." We have been visiting them on a monthly basis.

### **THANKS AND REQUESTS**

First, we want to thank all of you who are participants in this work together with us, whether by donations or through prayer. Know that your efforts have borne fruit that give glory to God in this part of the globe.

We ask for your prayers for our family. On March 31 our daughters turned seven years old. They are already reading and love learning new things in their second year of homeschooling. Lucas, our four-year-old son, is also growing fast. He's very smart and is constantly asking for a brother he could play with (you can pray for this desire of his). It was also Viviane's birthday on March 13. She has devoted herself entirely to teaching our children and is a strong supporter in most church activities. Pray that amid so many ministerial activities, the Lord would give us wisdom to dedicate quality time to our family - both our marriage and our children.



*Our family at Encarnación*

Our ministerial costs have gone up considerably. The opportunities for which the Lord has directed us require a greater monthly contribution than we had estimated, especially with the many trips. The vehicle requires frequent maintenance and consumes more fuel in addition to other expenses. We are praying for the resources to meet these growing ministry needs and challenges. Are you interested in mission work and joining the GMI team or know someone who is? We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You can contact us directly at ([cleiton.menor@gracem.org](mailto:cleiton.menor@gracem.org)) or GMI's office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to obtain more information about how to partner with us.

In Christ,

The Menors