



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Paraguay once again! After one year in the US, we have been back in Paraguay since the end of December. But before I get ahead of myself, let me backtrack to our last prayer letter.

Last October we participated in missionary conferences in the Pacific Northwest. We visited seven churches in three states over the course of four weeks. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with many friends and share our ministries with those churches. We finished the year back in Grand Rapids, Michigan. On December 28th, Cory, Elijah, and Timmy left for Paraguay. Kim stayed in Michigan for several days before traveling to Malawi for three weeks to visit Brian and Gloria Abranovich. Brian and Gloria are our fellow Grace Ministries International (GMI) team members serving in Malawi. Their new baby, Amelie, was born while Kim was there so she was able to help with the new baby and with their other daughter, Nina.

When we arrived in Paraguay, one of our first priorities was to find a new place to rent. As we were settling in and shaking off the jet lag, we looked at several homes and apartments. We found a home we really liked but it was too far away from town and from the boys' schools. We eventually decided on a very centrally located apartment. We are very happy with our decision as we like the apartment and the location a lot.

In the middle of January, we began our new ministry cycle for 2024. Cory and fellow GMI team member Cleiton Menor are leading the ministry at Iglesia Biblica Bereana (Berean Bible Church), a church plant in the city of Presidente Franco that just celebrated its second anniversary until local leadership can be trained and equipped to lead the congregation. On Saturday afternoons we meet with a group of five men to disciple them in preparation for becoming elders in the church. It is not common in Paraguay for the pastor to share his authority with an elder board, so there is a lot of work to be done to help these men understand this important biblical role. On Wednesday nights, Cory is teaching a Spanish Bible study at the church. We just finished the book *Understanding Your Bible* by Craig MacDonald, and now we will be using the book *Galatians and the Law* by Charles Baker.



Kim with the Abranoviches



Kim with Amelie and Nina



Wednesday Evening Spanish Bible Study

Two weeks ago, we began our English Bible Study in our apartment. We nearly ran out of space! There are a lot of people in our church who can speak English or are learning. It is exciting to have so many people interested in studying God's Word (especially in our own language). Kim has resumed teaching English three afternoons a week at the institute downtown and is working with some of our Brazilian teammates two to three times a week to help them learn or improve their English.



English Bible Study in our Apartment

Cory preaches once or twice per month and is becoming more involved with other parts of the worship service. It is exciting to be part of people's lives and to see them grow and mature with their fellow believers. Iglesia Biblica Bereana was running out of space at their original site and the Lord provided a larger building to rent. The new building has much more space for worship and kids' programs, and it is located close to the first building.



Cory Preaching at the New Church Building

Elijah and Timothy started school in mid-February. Elijah is happy to be in regular contact with his friends, so he looks forward to going to school each day. However, Timmy is still struggling with Spanish, so he is less enthusiastic about going to school. Please pray that he can overcome that obstacle and really enjoy his time in school.

Please join us in praying for:

- Timothy who has been suffering from chronic heartburn. We have lab tests scheduled soon and he will have an endoscopy in April.
- Naomi as she is in her second semester at Grace Christian University, and for her overall health.
 - Members of our church struggling in their personal lives.
 - Our continuing language acquisition in both Spanish and Portuguese.
- The future leaders in our church as they learn how to utilize their gifts in ministry.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. We appreciate you being a part of our team!

In His Service,

The Hodgsons



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