

Project Paraguay

Heart Aflame ...  ... Mind Renewed

In the Service of Christ the King

December 5, 2020

Dear Friend of Project Paraguay,

Christmas is a story of civil disobedience, mass murder, and escape from evil rulers, which ultimately leads to the eternal victory and worship of the King of Kings. King Herod was so troubled by the birth of the “King of the Jews” and the disobedience of the three Magi who did not report back to Herod regarding Jesus’ birth, that he had all the male children under the age of two massacred in Bethlehem in the hope of snuffing out the coming of God’s Kingdom. Matthew 2:16. For those like Herod, Christ has become a “stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” 1 Peter 2:8. But those who gladly accept Him become living stones “chosen and precious” in the sight of God—whoever believes in the chief cornerstone will not be put to shame. 1 Peter 2:4-6.

Rulers today, like Herod, resent the suggestion that there is a superior King to be obeyed. As a result, they persecute Christ and His Church to genocidal levels, according to the BBC (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-48146305>). In some countries like the United States, the anti-Christian animus is subtle, but nevertheless present (for example, see <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/anti-christian-discrimination-america/>). The Church must be wise but also obey God rather than men—in the U.S., Paraguay, and every Nation. Acts 5:29. As the Church faithfully resists political and cultural elites when necessary and proclaims the Good News to the people, the Gates of Hell will not prevail against the advance of Christ’s Kingdom. Matthew 16:18.

Christmas tradition in Paraguay revolves around the “pesebre” (nativity scene) and therefore tends to focus much more on the birth and person of Christ (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifG9j45VDZw>), which is an advantage for Christians calling the people to follow His teachings. We are thankful that Paraguayan culture, customs, and laws, have maintained a certain Christian consensus that is breaking down elsewhere. Reaching Paraguay one person at a time with the heart of the Gospel message is what Project Paraguay is about. God has blessed the Project this year and although the churches we support have suffered in the COVID environment, there are definite things to be thankful for during this special season.

One item of praise is the addition of another Church into the El Renuevo group of churches: the Ebenezer Church in Villa Elisa, Paraguay (<https://www.facebook.com/IglesiaPresbiterianaReformadaEbenezer/videos/363915514900033>). It is especially appropriate that the stone of Ebenezer signifies “to us that trusting in anything or anyone short of Christ is a precursor to failure. In defeat or failure, we must repent from misplaced trust and from leaving Christ out of the equation.” (<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/what-does-ebenezer-mean-in-the-bible-what-s-an-ebenezer-stone-used-for.html>). Ebenezer Church has around 50 members and its

interim Pastor, Victorio Recalde, is now under the El Renuevo umbrella and will be ordained by a Presbyterian Church in America delegation, probably next Fall. We therefore now work with four established churches (El Renuevo, Barrio Parque, Pura Vida, El Ebenezer) and one mission church, La Roca.

Next Summer, our hope is to organize a team that will work at La Roca, visit Ebenezer, and help Barrio Parque with food distribution and Bible classes to an indigenous people's group in the area. We also expect to organize a medical clinic. Please let us know if interested in participating. To get an idea of our activities during a Summer mission trip, please view the attached link of our 2019 trip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0sBX9Yo4wk&feature=youtu.be>

We are also thankful that the Lord has answered our prayers regarding various health concerns of the people we know in Paraguay. Sisters Deidi, Rosana, and Mariana have recovered from COVID and Pastor Maureira is doing much better but still under observation and taking medications. His medical diagnosis was a myocarditis caused by a virus that affected the heart. His wife, Angela is preparing to undergo an operation to remove her thyroid. Please pray for these health needs.

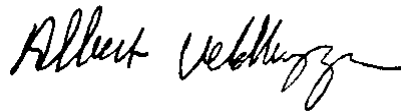
As a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns that have devastated people's incomes, poor families are in special need this Christmas. For \$50, you can provide a week's worth of meals and household items to a family in need. You can also consider sponsoring a child at the Barrio Parque school for \$50 per month. ***In this challenging time, please consider making a generous contribution to Project Paraguay.***

In every area of life, let us take up the whole armor of God to battle physical and spiritual evil, "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor. 10:5. May you and your family have a Blessed Christmas and New Year 2021. Turning the page on 2020 will doubtlessly be a joy for many!

For the PP Board,



Gordon Caylor
Projects Director



Albert R. Veldhuyzen
Publications Director



Kean Hyltoft
Finance Director

P.S. Your support for Project Paraguay's work is very much appreciated. Our estimated budget for 2020 is \$67,000. Given that we are all unpaid volunteers, all of these funds go to the support of the work in Paraguay. Thank you for your faithful prayers and actions in support of Christ's Kingdom! God Bless.

I/We will contribute a gift of \$ _____ in support of Project Paraguay's mission.

I/We commit to making a monthly gift of \$ _____.

_____ I will set up a recurring credit card donation online at projectparaguay.org donate page (preferred option) or

_____ I pledge to send a check on a monthly basis.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (please provide so we can update you regularly)

Project Paraguay is a registered charity under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. Make checks payable to: Project Paraguay. *Address to: Project Paraguay, P.O. Box 129, Warrenton VA 20188.* If a gift is specifically designated for a particular purpose, the Board will make every effort to honor the designation, but reserves the right to redirect funds in case the intended purpose becomes illegal, impractical, impossible, or if gifts received are more than required to achieve the intended purpose(s). A copy of Project Paraguay's annual charity registration statement is available on the Project Paraguay website, or from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs, P.O. Box 526, Richmond, VA 23218-0526.