

Project Paraguay

Heart Aflame ...  ... Mind Renewed

In the Service of Christ the King

September 14, 2020

Dear Friend of Project Paraguay,

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair . . . ” So began one of Charles Dickens’ greatest novels, *A Tale of Two Cities*, which mirrors so perfectly the prevailing ethos of our time. As in the time of the French Revolution, the stark ideological and cultural divide with great prosperity and economic insecurity coexisting side by side and with two diametrically opposite societal visions tugging us apart, a darker sinister reality is at work: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:12-13.

Our Lord Jesus ushered in the greatest conflict of the Ages (“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” Matthew 10:34) and his brother James commands radical attitude adjustment, namely “to count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (James 1:2). Christians are called to be joyful, fearless, warriors who know that all things work together for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Admittedly, this is difficult to do in our own strength, especially when faced with horrendous circumstances as the Paraguayans faced in the War of the Triple Alliance, where 90% of the male population was slaughtered. Truly apocalyptic. It was the deadliest war ever fought in the Americas, and Paraguay was almost erased from the map as a viable country. However, one reason it bounced back was that God raised up a savior for Paraguay—U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes. He was asked to mediate between the previously warring parties and he awarded Paraguay a chunk of land that now constitutes 60% of its current land mass (see <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1878/d412>). So today, President Hayes is celebrated on a regular basis, and a whole province bears his name as well as a city and numerous landmarks and streets. To read more about this fascinating story of how a still obscure U.S. President became a Paraguayan national hero, you can refer to this online article: <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/president-rutherford-hayes-paraguay>. While Hayes was a type of national savior, God raised up His Son to be the eternal Savior of Paraguayans and all mankind. Our mission is to make Him known so He is celebrated and worshipped.

I mention this episode of Paraguayan history to illustrate three points: (1) that our current world crisis, in relative terms, is nowhere near the apocalyptic disaster Paraguayans endured a century ago; (2) that even after tremendous dislocation, there

is always a great opportunity to rebound and thrive; and (3) that underlying all things is an unseen spiritual reality we discern through Faith, not fear—Faith that produces positive action. Our calling at Project Paraguay is to heighten our commitment to missions. Barring continued restrictions to enter Paraguay, we will organize a trip next year and will start preparations now. Please pray and let us know if you can participate.

There are darker powers at work hindering our ministry in Paraguay. COVID is the reason given to shutter the work of churches and Christian schools, and the resulting turmoil and hardships have had significant effects. The Pastor of La Roca, on whom we put much hope, Daniel Caniza, has resigned. Narciso Britez, our El Renuevo School Administrator, has taken on the additional task of being the caretaker for La Roca, cleaning the area and serving on Sundays. This additional duty is not compensated but the El Renuevo Session has asked Project Paraguay to provide \$644 for five months until December—this would cover Narciso’s salary which has effectively disappeared because of the government-mandated closure of the school, which dried up tuition payments. Please pray and consider contributing to the Narciso support fund.

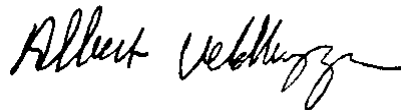
Please also pray for wisdom for Elder Cesar Franco as he juggles Seminary and also the additional task of assisting Pastor Hugo Ovando at the Pura Vida Church. Both Pura Vida and Barrio Parque are under a 20-person restriction for Sunday services. El Renuevo will also begin limited services in September. Also, our sister Deidi was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer. She has undergone numerous tests, is scheduled for surgery, and not currently working. Please pray for her full recovery.

Finally, in this challenging time, please consider making a generous tax-deductible contribution to Project Paraguay. If you can contribute monthly, the PP website (projectparaguay.org) allows you to set up recurring credit card donations. 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.

For the PP Board,



Gordon Caylor
Projects Director



Albert R. Veldhuyzen
Communications 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)

Contributions are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. Make checks payable to: Project Paraguay. *Address to: c/o Finance Director Kean Hyltoft, 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).