Project Paraguay

Heart Aflame ... Mind Renewed

In the Service of Christ the King

September 21, 2021

Dear Friend of Project Paraguay,

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world." Romans 1:8. We thank God and all of you for the support provided and the encouragement to persevere in serving our brothers and sisters in Paraguay. We stepped out in faith amidst the pandemic and we were blessed as well as a blessing to many!

The highlight of our missions trip in July/August were the first-ever medical fairs conducted at Barrio Parque, El Renuevo, and Ebenezer Churches. We were able to help around 150 patients who had various illnesses needing attention, the primary diagnosis being hypertension. Three individuals were critical to the success of these fairs: Joselyn Salguero, our Virginia nurse, Dr. Daniel Riveros, and Dr. Marcelo Miño, our Paraguayan cardiologist and elder at Ebenezer Church. Dr. Miño, who has an incredibly busy schedule sacrificially took off three days from work to lead all three of the medical fairs, and Joselyn was an indispensable aide and backup to Dr. Miño and Dr. Riveros. We also received essential encouragement and help from the members of all three churches. We thank all of you and all the churches who contributed medicines and supplies that our team was able to bring down to Paraguay.

The medical fairs were the kickoff of a long-term commitment to medical treatment and support by our Paraguayan Churches. At the end of the medical fair week, we participated in the inauguration of the permanent medical clinic of the Ebenezer Church under the leadership and direction of Doctor Miño. As a ministry of love, he will devote every Saturday to seeing patients for free at the Clinic who are recommended by the Pura Vida, Ebenezer, Barrio Parque, El Renuevo, and La Roca Churches. This is an exciting new area of ministry as our prior efforts were primarily concentrated in church construction and Christian education.

The COVID Pandemic has brought into clear focus the centrality of the healing ministry and the need for the Church to reclaim that area for Christ's Kingdom. For previous generations from the time of the Apostles, healing was central to the Gospel and as a result, Christians healed the sick and established hospitals. There is a yearning to be delivered from COVID—a striking scene in downtown Luque was seeing unbelievable lines snake around city blocks for the COVID vaccine. The infusion of donated vaccines from India, China, Russia, Europe and the United States seems to have slowed the COVID spread. The US recently donated large quantities of Moderna and Pfizer but those other nations had sent theirs first and those persons who were first in line received the Sputnik and other non-US vaccines. We pray that this yearning for physical deliverance from COVID and other illnesses may also result in a spiritual

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awakening and recognition that ultimately Christ Alone is the source of physical and spiritual life. Despite the Pandemic, attendance at services has really picked up so we are seeing encouraging signs of an awakening.

Another highlight of the trip was feeding the indigenous peoples who live near the Barrio Parque Church. It is a ministry of love that meets their physical needs and hopefully will lead to a spiritual awakening among them. One indigenous family has started to attend the Barrio Parque Church.

From a personal perspective, the small size of the team and the length of our stay were a real blessing to Kean and I because we really got to know our Paraguayan brothers and sisters more intimately. Their hospitality knew no bounds. Kean and I stayed with Pastor Miguel and his wife, Pinchi, while Joselyn stayed with Ignacio and Noemi's family. We were also invited to dinner with: Pastor Maureira and family; Pastor Sosa and family; Elder/Dr. Marcelo Mino and family; Elder Charlie Mendez and family; Elder Cesar Franco and family; Elder Narciso Britez and family; and Elder Fabio/Liliana and family. We also had meals with William Busto, Ebenezer Pastor in training, and Victor Recalde, Ebenezer Interim Pastor. We had many meaningful conversations and getting to know them well was a positive side-benefit of being a small team.

All three of us also had opportunities to discuss our faith—making a "defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15. We presented our faith with the students of El Renuevo School and at the Barrio Parque, El Renuevo, and Ebenezer Churches and made a biblical presentation to the assembled leaders of all the churches regarding Church-State conflicts in the age of COVID. You can see photos and videos of our trip and these presentations at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1170389969829149

We thank you for your partnership with us as we seek to minister to Paraguayans and build God's Kingdom there. Blessings to you and to your family!

For the PP Board.

Caylor Albert Velobling Martholif

Gordon Caylor Projects Director Albert R. Veldhuyzen Executive Director

Kean Hyltoft Finance Director

P.S. The pictures page shows some photos of our trip to Paraguay. Your support for Project Paraguay's work is also very much appreciated. Our estimated budget for 2021 is \$51,242. 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.

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