



Hello / Hola / Maitei

These past six months have been filled with change, adventure, and new ministry opportunities.

Change: We left behind our lives in Costa Rica, including our careers, friends, family, and home. This has been a difficult process.

Adventure: On the other hand, we have experienced many new adventures. During our time in the United States, we have met many new friends and we have also reconnected with many old friends, brothers and sisters in Christ we have known through our many years of ministry in Costa Rica.

Our adventure in the States began with a rather chilly start. When we arrived in the United States in late January, we were welcomed with an outdoor air temperature of just 14° Fahrenheit. While this may seem normal to some of you, it was a stark contrast to the 80 and 90-degree temperatures we had just left in Costa Rica. Nevertheless, by God's grace, we made it through those bone-chilling days of winter and are thankful we can now enjoy the beautiful colors of spring.

At this point in our US adventure, we have had the opportunity to visit fourteen churches across three states, Michigan, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, as well as Grace Christian University. This has meant driving many miles, trying different types of food, and enjoying the beautiful landscapes along the way. Thanks to the kindness of many brothers and sisters, and as part of the celebration of our 27th wedding anniversary, we had the opportunity to visit The Creation Museum, Ark Encounter, and The Bible Museum, which have been a great blessing for our lives.

Ministry: Of course, the best part of this journey is that we have been able to share our lives and ministry with many brothers and sisters of all ages: children, young adults, adults, and seniors.

One of the ministries we look forward to sharing when we visit churches is the ministry of Costa Rica Grace Bible Institute. We were involved in starting Grace Bible Institute nineteen years ago, and since then, it has grown into a fully online Bible institute with students from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Brazil. Henry has been an instructor at the school from the start and is currently involved in preparing new courses for the students, in addition to the twenty-one courses already available. We are also testing a new platform for hosting the coursework in the hope of providing better service to our students. We kindly ask for your prayers for this ministry.

We have another online ministry we started in Costa Rica called MiDevocional.org, and we praise the Lord that we recently celebrated the 15th anniversary of this online devotional ministry, which reaches tens of thousands of people worldwide every day. Although it is in Spanish, most smartphones and web browsers have



Sharing at churches around the US



At the Ark Encounter in Kentucky



Singing at a church

excellent translation tools for those who would like to check it out in English.

In the same spirit, we are developing a new Bible study/devotional series consisting of fifty-two lessons on the life of the Apostle Paul. We are preparing this study in both Spanish and English and would appreciate your prayers for this new project, which will be utilized online and as we serve with Grace Ministries International in Paraguay.

Finally, we want to share our joy for all that God is doing in the ministry in Paraguay. We rejoice with the congregation of Iglesia Biblica Bereana (Berean Bible Church) in Presidente Franco, Paraguay, as they recently celebrated their third anniversary. We are also excited that the children's club that meets every Saturday in Ciudad del Este is consistently averaging thirty children in attendance each week. And we thank God that the various ministries and Bible studies in Paraguay are growing and producing fruit.

Our Next Steps: We will continue to visit churches across the United States during the three months we have left in the US. This means we have many more miles ahead of us, many new experiences, and above all, the blessing of meeting and reconnecting with many brothers and sisters.

We are looking forward to joining the GMI team and getting involved in ministry in Paraguay later this year. We feel God has uniquely gifted us to be involved in the training of ministry leaders in the local church in Paraguay, so they are equipped to take over leadership in the churches that are planted and well-prepared to face the challenges of ministry.

One of the most significant ministries we plan to be part of is the planting of a new church in the La Blanca neighborhood in Ciudad del Este alongside our GMI team members and local church leaders. Planting a church in this community will require considerable evangelistic work, starting with the families of the children who currently attend the children's club held every Saturday at that location. We also have a strong desire to continue developing curriculum and programs for strengthening the whole family.

Trusting that the Lord will provide for our support, we are making plans to move to Paraguay at the end of August. To accomplish this, our total budgeted monthly support will need to be raised. We are very grateful for your friendship and for your partnership in our ministry through your prayers, encouragement, and gifts. We invite you to invest in our ministry financially by sending a one-time gift to help with our setup costs or through a monthly recurring donation. Gifts can be mailed to GMI in the enclosed envelope, or a recurring donation can be set up online at gracem.org.

Please pray for safe travels, meaningful visits with churches and supporters, and blessed fellowship with our brothers and sisters here in the US as we complete our time here.

Blessings,

Henry and Grettel

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Paraguay Kid's Club



The church in Paraguay celebrating their anniversary



Bible study in Paraguay



Thank you for your support!



GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL