

# The Hodgsons' Update

## Missionary life in Paraguay

Cory, Kim, Naomi, Elijah, and Timothy

APRIL 2019

Greetings from Paraguay! We just finished braving our first summer here. Many days were over 100°, there was lots of humidity, and we had plenty of bugs. It is autumn now—currently hovering around 80°. We have many things to report since our last prayer letter, so here we go.

Ministry in Paraguay is exciting! When we arrived in Paraguay, we joined a small team of dedicated, kind, and godly people. We are serving with them in a church called *Iglesia Biblica Gracia* (Grace Bible Church). This church was planted by our colleagues in order to reach the international community of Ciudad del Este with the gospel and with sound biblical teaching. Since last year, Cory has preached and is teaching the Thursday evening Bible study along with fellow missionary Alex Gulart. Since he is still learning Spanish, the guys have been kind enough to translate for him.



Our Toyota minivan



English Bible Study

For four months we were all taking Spanish lessons three times a week. Timmy would sit with the secretary while the rest of us studied. Since the kids started school in February, Kim and I have continued our studies. Please pray for us as we learn and use our Spanish daily, and that we would quickly gain proficiency in speaking and understanding.

Naomi, Elijah, and Timmy attend school at the Interactive Christian Institute (ICI). Their coursework is mostly in Spanish, although Naomi and Elijah have a few hours of English self-study each day. Elijah is currently on an overnight camping trip with his classmates. They have had great attitudes despite the language barrier and are making some friends. Please pray for them that they will be a light to their non-Christian classmates and that they will learn Spanish expeditiously.

It has been a joy learning Spanish so far, and it has also been a

blessing teaching an English Bible study every Saturday night at our home. We have anywhere from three to fifteen people attending, and Kim always bakes something delicious. We have been methodically studying the book of Ephesians and are halfway through. Most who attend are native Spanish speakers, but there are some who also speak German, Portuguese, Guarani, Tagalog, and Arabic.

In October we found a great Toyota minivan and have used it extensively. We are thankful for a spacious, dependable vehicle! In December, we started looking for a house or apartment to rent. After some looking, we decided that a house was the best fit for us. We found one only a ½ kilometer from the church and a five-minute drive from the kids' school. After a lot of cleaning and fixing up, we moved in February and it has been great for our family.



Timmy, Elijah, and Naomi

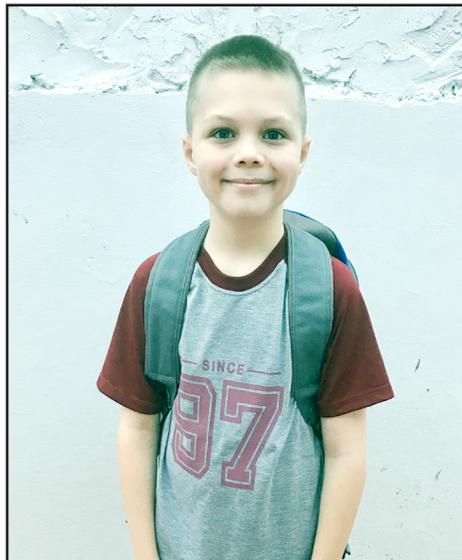


Bible study in Argentina

### Here are some prayer requests:

- For Timothy's adjustment to being at school and his behavioral issues there
- For our Spanish studies
- For our team—the Vergaras recently moved to Bolivia
- For our bodies as we are exposed to new and exciting germs, bacteria, and ailments

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. We really enjoy Paraguay and see a lot of excellent ministry opportunities here both present and future. We are also thankful for our stupendous missionary team. We hope this letter finds you well.



First day of school for Naomi and Elijah

We are blessed to be part of a missionary team in Paraguay with a common vision for ministry both current and long-term. As we look to the future, we anticipate growing congregations and churches in strategic areas of Paraguay, and developing property in Ciudad del Este for a church building and ministry headquarters. Before that happens, we need to register Grace Ministries International in Paraguay as a government-recognized organization. This will allow us to attain our future goals and provide stability as our ministries expand to new areas. *Will you please help us by praying for these things?* The registration process alone can take a few years and requires a lot of patience. We will need someone here who can help us through the process and navigate the government requirements.

In His service,  
Cory, Kim, Naomi, Elijah, and Timothy Hodgson



Timmy's first day of school