

Going Strong in God To every thing there is a season

A time to teach, a time to play, a time to worship, a time to study, a time to travel, a time to pray and plan, a time to act...



Things to pray for:

Praise René's involvement in starting a new youth program, as well as helping expand *Discover*.

Need God's guidance for leaders of national churches, how to respond to needs in spite of challenges.

Praise Anja's participation and collaboration with different sectors in country and even international entities.

Need Sustained financial resources to continue to invest in the work we are involved in, in Paraguay.

Praise Steps forward in the growth of *Paraguay Protects Families* (PPF) movement, to see kids in families and know God.



Reaching those often forgotten.

"I never went to church and I never hung out with anyone... (In this outing) I liked getting to know a bunch of people, and play soccer with kids who live in tough conditions!"

- teen, *Club Aventura*

New Adventure in Youth Ministry

René has helped launch a new ministry *Club Aventura* in our local church, reaching kids ages 12+ with real life discipleship. *Club Aventura's* purpose is to actively engage teenagers in learning and applying God's Word to life by using activities in nature to expose the kids to a different context than what they are used to where life principles are learned in action rather than just through teaching. For example, the kickoff was an extreme

Adventure hike in Tobati rocky area: climbing into a dark cave lead to talking about coming out of our life's "caves" of darkness in to God's peace and safety. This activity was followed by an afternoon of volunteering in the Community Centre of Su Refugio organization (which we partner with), working with around 100 kids from at-risk neighborhoods in sports, art and music classes and serving a special hot dog snack for all involved.



Taking *Discover Experience* to the interior of Paraguay: More than 100 kids from schools in the Department of Caaguazú

Once again an all-day *Discover Experience*, this time in a less reached area, partnering with others in Campo 9

This strategy, which has had great impact here in greater Asunción, is now being introduced in other parts of the country. In Campo 9 of the Department of Caaguazú, Discover has already been partnering with local churches and organizations, working toward building a permanent youth center and ministry hub for their area. To make a one-

day Discover Experience with over 100 teenagers from local schools possible, many volunteers from local churches and ministries as well as Discover volunteers from the Capital, worked together. The joint efforts made this vibrant program and follow-up possible. The kids (ages 12-17), who kept the pace with the diverse activities and heard many

testimonies of God's Word for their lives, were ecstatic to have an event just for them. While many made significant personal decisions, it was also an important step for the local ministry towards reaching youth.



Professional Course in Israel: Child Development

Selected for an intensive training scholarship of the Government of Israel, on supporting the holistic development and well-being of children, Anja spent two weeks in Haifa, Israel, representing Paraguay among delegates from 26 countries.

The practice-focused course itself, as well as the discussions with specialists from around the world, was inspiring and opened new possibilities to develop parent support programs in PY. Seeing sister Stefanie, Florian & Amelia while there was a huge bonus!



Paraguay Protects Families (PPF)

International specialists in family care

In March we received the third visit of social work specialists (SFAC, a Christian UK org for family-based care) to Paraguay – this time organized by PPF movement, together with the PY Supreme Court, Public Defense and National Ministry for Children and Adolescents (SNNA), as well as with public authorities and Mennonite Colonies in the Chaco region. High quality seminars and meetings with Mick and Dan from SFAC took place during this fast-paced seven-day conference. The event reached around 500 individuals from high court judges, government staff and public defenders to residential care and boarding school staff, foster and adoptive families, professionals and church members. In all sectors reached, it

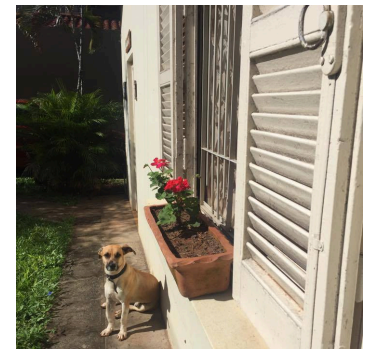
was described as “life changing” in the methods and standards of meeting children’s needs... It was also the introduction to a postgrad course PPF initiated in the Evangelical University of PY, in partnership with SNNA and NGOs, training 30+ psychologists, social workers, lawyers etc. in alternative care for children separated from their families.



Home base: Our refuge to reflect, plan & grow together in Christ

Amidst travel, activities, meetings, visits and output of many forms, we find our home base to be essential – a place where we can share as a couple, with family & friends, and so on. It also happens to be a home office for Anja who works independently in support of the different areas she focuses on, making it possible to share with colleagues in ministry within a peaceful environment.

Life's path of course includes many bumps along the way, and we have experienced our share. The current one is a happy one – a baby bump that is due November this year! We are so thankful and pray for health for our little one. We're also prayerfully preparing our furlough to Canada and possibly USA for mid-next-year. ☺



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Serving in Paraguay with Action International reaching kids through discipleship & advocacy

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