

# Gaona's news

Through Him, a present and future filled with HOPE.



## Looking up, our Hope from above

There are seasons for everything. Though Paraguay is mostly summer, we do also experience changes, like when the yellow *lapacho* trees bloom in spring. A time to stop, look & reflect.

Yellow inspires hope. When Asunción is suddenly filled with blossoming bright yellow trees—even just a few days—we're reminded things CAN change, when the timing is right. In spite of 40 degrees heat, struggling with COVID restrictions or even balancing life with 2 small kids: God gives HOPE.

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### YOUTH DAY

In Paraguay, the arrival of spring (Sept 21) is also to celebrate youth

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### THEIR FAMILIES

Slowly but surely we are making connections with the teens' families

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### OUR FAMILY

What a gift of grace she is! Since Sofie's arrival, it's a new season for all



### Celebrating teens in Independencia

It's a growing group of almost 40 kids in the Discover base!



### Open homes and desire to connect

Some kids' families even want to start a bible study group.



### Life with two little ones

With highs and lows of every day, life is definitely filled with challenges and joy!



## In-between times... 'get set, get ready' or 'wait'

Living on the edge ministry-wise has its adrenaline rush moments, but this is what our behind-the-scenes look like.

A very wise friend of ours recently asked us what season we find ourselves in now, after the labour-filled 'summer' he knew we had had. My response was "spring, coming out of winter" because honestly we have been experiencing a quieter period, drip feeding efforts to build and connect kingdom work, sometimes (often) frustrated that things are much slower than wanted, or even at a halt, and yet excited to see growing potential and how God is raising more people with renewed vision to join forces.

The more obvious reasons for 'slowness' are the pandemic, pregnancy and new baby joining our family. But it also has to do with the TYPE of calling we have, which is coming alongside other people serving locally, activating and empowering existing ministries, acting as a bridge so that what God is already doing through them can be stronger and multiplied.

And for that we often have to *get ready* or *wait*.



**“Getting ready is as important as going.”**

Sometimes we see things begin to bud, grow and have fruit, which is exhilarating. Other times it seems what was set in motion loses momentum, needing help. On one hand there's so much to be done, on the other we have to be careful not to rush in and "do it" on our own.

So what exactly is our "behind-the-scene"? That's the only way to explain it: we are expectantly tending, keeping connections alive and initiatives moving, eager to see fruit in the multiple fronts God places us in, for kids, teens and families: *sharing the Gospel, discipling and supporting; advocating for family-based care.*

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Speaking of budding, these two are absolutely precious, and not a day goes by without thinking, WOW how is it got blessed us with such a beautiful family?? Not without heartache or frustration of course, but we can only give God thanks and ask for wisdom, for each new day and phase (example, now starting to think of where Santi will attend school! and how to balance life after "mat leave").

Also, we are STILL in awe about the huge miracles we recently experienced, getting a property for our future home base (next big step, not sure when: construction!) as well as a larger vehicle.

