

UPDATE FROM PARAGUAY

René & Anja Gaona: serving vulnerable children, youth and families

ADVOCACY, DISCIPLESHIP AND NETWORKING — EMPOWERING THE CHURCH ALONGSIDE SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT,
TO IMPROVE HOW KIDS ARE CARED FOR AND SUPPORTED WITHIN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES SO AS TO REACH THEIR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

"I AM DOING A NEW THING!"

God's timing is perfect, He is the one at work

We have been challenged (by God, not COVID) to renew our approach in reaching out to the most vulnerable in Paraguay, empowering and equipping local churches and servant-leaders. Pray with us:

- for a **new endeavor called "Love for 1,000 Generations"** that René (and I) are starting in faith, working with multiple key partners — such as DISCOVER youth centers — to reach higher risk communities. The goal is to pour out God's love and His word in practical ways, catalyzing social care ministry of churches in collaboration with others. For years René sensed a strong call to community development, and to discipleship preparing leaders and volunteers (especially young adults and teens) for this holistic outreach in Jesus' name. We sense God's timing is now, to venture in this after taking time to pray and prepare this new path, starting a pilot program with our friend and colleague Pastor Osben Baez.
- for a partnership that Anja as PPF co-coordinator helped form, to **create a parenting helpline for families** that experience crisis at home and need supportive counseling. This coalition signed by six faith-based organizations (the Evangelical Alliance of Paraguay, the Evangelical University of PY and several other orgs working with kids and families) with support of PPF and WWO globally, will train and monitor a network of volunteers offering phone counseling to parents and kids, strengthening families and preventing violence.



Our job is to be faithful
to what God wants us to do,
and trust Him for the harvest.

WALKING BY FAITH, PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Putting down roots, in for the long haul!

Please pray with us for our finances and future:

- We did have a significant drop in financial support locally, and are trusting God for next steps, especially considering the new venture we are piloting and resources for that as well.
- We are renting a home with an office at a relatively low cost in the center of Asunción for the next few years, truly God's doing. But for many years now we've been praying about investing in our own property as home and ministry base: long story short, the time seems now. This is a major step of faith, and in prayer we are looking to **increase our monthly support by US\$400, or raise one-time donations**, to be able to pay a **10-year personal loan we are seeking to get, for the purchase of a property** in a developing area, in preparation for future construction. We've been so blessed with help trying to find who can give us the loan, and already received a donation for the down payment! It may seem an odd time to do this now, but we want to be good stewards of Kingdom resources for the long term. After much research, we're convinced this is an important step to take before prices go up. *Please let us know if you or someone you know might be interested in helping!*

The time spent in lockdown has been essential, building into each other and our vision as we work from home, encouraged by the support near and far we receive. Santi (two and a half!) is talking so much; he misses being with other kids but our new dogs keep him busy. Although our trip we had planned to North America cannot happen for now, we look forward to seeing many of you as soon as travel is permitted!

THANKFUL YOUR SUPPORT!

So much more to share... please write us,
or arrange a Zoom call if interested:
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