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*Be With*  
Loewen Update From Paraguay



Merry Christmas and Happy New Years from our family to yours!

A lot has happened since we last sent an update including:

- Kimberly and a friend attended a women's retreat in Belize
- Sam completed another semester teaching at ACA
- Amelia started Pre-K, which transitions Kimberly to a new season of no kids at home!
- We have been able to help our friend Helena secure a loan to restart her business so she can continue her outreach to the indigenous communities
- The boys are soccer crazy 🏈😄

## In a random jungle in Belize...

Ever since I (Kimberly) moved to Paraguay, I started to have panic attacks when I was in a hot car. Whenever it was really hot outside, I had so much fear going anywhere. This fear controlled a lot of decisions I made and I even questioned if we were where God wanted us to be.

In Belize after the retreat, we were having trouble finding a way back to the city to go home.

We put so much effort finding a private ride, but our last minute plans didn't go through so we didn't have time to find a different ride.

Luckily the retreat arranged a ride to the city with a local church and their bus. At this point it was the only option, but the problem was the bus didn't have AC!

My heart quickened at the thought of being on that bus for 6 hour 😞.

I had so much fear... I didn't know what to do. If a panic attack came on (which it always did), I had no way of getting off the bus.

It was going to be 96 with no sign of rain.

As I was walking to the bus with my suitcase.... I surrender my fear and told God I trusted you, even in this situation.

As soon as I finished it started to downpour!!😭😭😭

My friend came running to me and said 'God sent the rain to you' which were my exact thoughts.

Ever since that moment I haven't had one panic attack in Paraguay!!!!

This was the theme of this retreat I attended in Belize: to experience God, to receive from Him, to be empowered to share with others, and to know your true identity as a child of God.

Esther and I want to be faithful and share with others what we have received from God during that time. We are praying and seeing what are the next steps that God wants us to take.







## **In the classroom...**

This year I (Sam) decided to take grades 9th-12th on individual day retreats with the focus of silence and reflection (which they don't get much of these days) and connection with each other.

They seemed to be a great success and just what they needed.

Here are what a couple of the students had to say after:

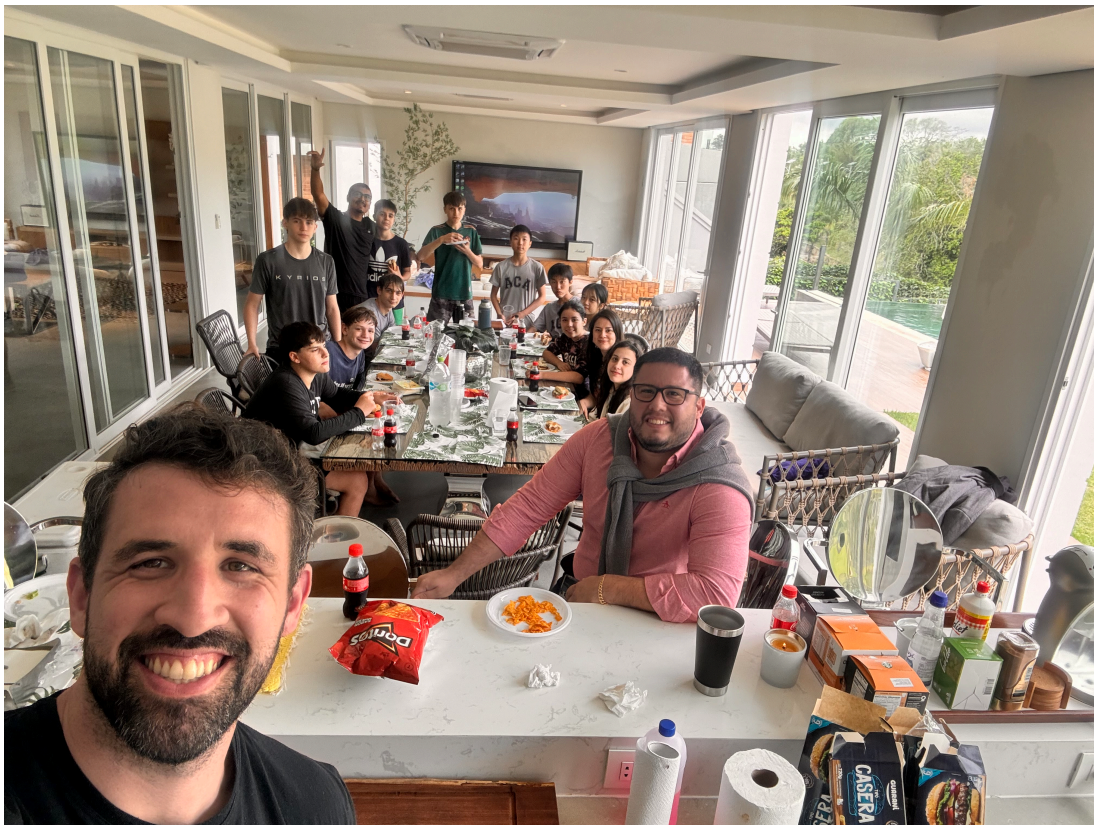
***"In the field trip that my grade went together, I learned more about myself than in the past. I could review myself and I found my problems and obstacles that block me from God... This moment of thinking about my life and relationship with God helped me feel closer to Him and gave me new strength to focus on what's really important."***

***"Something that I felt***



***rewarded was after our retreat to San Bernardino ...I learned and experienced so much by having time alone thinking, watching the video, and also spending time with friends and teachers. I grew as a person and my relationship with God also grew greatly."***

We will continue to do these day retreats next semester. Please pray for them!



# Projects We're Doing With The Students

We made this video to submit for a grant given to teachers dedicated to innovation in the classroom:



## Indigenous Support

You may remember us mentioning a lady named Helena. She is the chaplain for the Paraguayan armed forces and also passionate about bringing the gospel to the unreached (she is indigenous herself).

We have gone on a few outreaches with her and have even taken some of our students.

Helena used to operate her own clothing fabrication business which helped fund her work with indigenous outreach. At her peak, she was the #1 producer of uniforms for all armed forces in Paraguay; over 5,000 outfits a year!

Unfortunately the pandemic caused her to stop her work.

During one of our outreaches Helena explained to me she was in need of 2 things:

-Someone to overlook the business financials, -A loan to restart the business and complete a few contracts.

God provided for her in both ways!!

First, after much prayer, Kimberly and I agreed I would accept her invitation and assume the role as a financial overseer of the business.



Secondly, we connected her with a close friend who is the director of [Diaconia](#), an organization that provides micro loans to women-led small businesses.

In October Helena was approved for a loan that allowed to her pay past due fees and has started gathering supplies for new orders!

Pray for us and Helena- that God would use this new opportunity to bless her and the many unreached indigenous left here in Paraguay 🇵🇷🙏





## Supporting Us

***Thank you*** to those who have faithfully supported us in the almost 3 years we have been here!



The generosity towards Kimberly's language learning really blew us away. She completed courses 1 & 2 and is now putting it into practice with her Paraguayan friends 😊

### **Remaining Need:**

**Monthly: \$1,000**

### **One time need:**

- \$600 - Student/teacher outreaches and retreats
- \$5,000 - Plane tickets to visit Washington, June 2025

Click below if you would like to support us monthly or make a one time donation (both are tax deductible).



Checks can be made payable to:  
GHI/Be With  
P.O. Box 64059  
Eagan, MN 55164-0059

## **Pictures**



Friends



**The fruit: One of our favorite parts of living here!**





Our sweet Amelia who just turned 5 ❤️



Camp ☀️





Ell is thriving here. He loves everything about the Paraguayan culture and brings so much life to those around him.



Isaiah is growing and developing so fast. He loves to work and going on adventures!





We love Carmela! 🐶





Good friends and a good view!



We celebrated our 12th anniversary in July. God blessed us with an extra measure of connection this year 🥰





We had a great semester of Refuel youth group. We had 14 students sign up to be leaders!

*“And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.”*

**~Philippians 1:12~**

*Be With*

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