The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.
- Matthew 13:32

Issue 54 April 4, 2023

In this issue: The Gospel reaches new territory – p. 1-2

The music ministry pauses for a beat -p. 3 A holiday celebration with Latino flair -p. 4

Sisters' creativity blooms – p. 5-6

Helpful resources in times of need – p. 7

A walk in the park – p. 7 Look for the light – p. 7

# The power of God at work in the heart of South America!

One nickname for Paraguay is "Corazón de América" (the Heart of America), and it's amazing to see how God is working there to bring people to know Him! In January, the church in Paraguay hosted its first Camp Swamp—











The picture on the right shows William and David Ruiz with their *thirteen* cousins who took part in this first session of Camp Swamp Paraguay—William jokes, "Rumor has it we're still counting cousins!" And two of them are now studying the Bible!

On Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, a missionary from our sister congregation in Paraguay, which meets in the capital city of Asunción, held a special service at a house owned by the Ruiz family in Alfonso Loma, Daniel and Alicia's hometown, about 100 kilometers/60 miles from Asunción. Alicia and some members of her extended family watched the service online and shared these pictures—











Alicia says, "A lot of people came to this service; my brother, who lives three hours from there, came with his wife. The message was incredible! We are very encouraged how the Holy Spirit is moving! Our God is incredible—all the glory be to Him They are still over there sharing the Bible with my sisters and brother—please pray for them!" Amen!

## Lunch on a casual note

The music ministry started off 2023 with a lunchtime family get-together at the Berry house on January  $8^{\text{th}}$ . Take a look—























## Feliz Dia de los Reyes!

January 6th is celebrated in many cultures and regions of the world to commemorate the day the kings or wise men from the East found Joseph, Mary and Jesus. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the newborn Son of God (*Matthew 2:1-12*), so Latino cultures traditionally celebrate with special festivities, foods, and gift-giving. Our Spanish-language ministry gathered at the Medranos' home on January for the festivities; here's a taste of the fun—

















### Sisters connect and create!

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the sisters of AcoCG were invited to come together at the Mukenyas' clubhouse for a time to connect, reach out, express our creativity, and enjoy time with one another, family and friends in the beautiful spring weather! Artist and organizer Jennifer Warner, with the help of her staff, coached us to trace her original designs onto our canvases, and to paint in the outlines with our choice of paints from her supply. Our fellowship was enhanced with refreshments provided, and profits from the registration fees went to support young women in need. Take a look!



























### A little help to stretch your budget...

Just a reminder—one of the resources available through the Atlanta church of Christ in Gwinnett is our food pantry! Housed in the Berrys' basement, the pantry offers a selection of shelf-stable items—canned and packaged foods from breakfast cereal to tuna, from soup and pasta to juice and condiments, along with basic paper goods, diapers and wipes, and a few personal-care items such as toothpaste and shampoo. For perishable items like milk, meat, bread and produce, the benevolence fund supplements the pantry items with small amounts of cash or gift cards to fill in the gaps. If your budget is tight and you have enough money to either pay a bill or go to the grocery store, please feel free to contact Peter or Nancy Berry (Peter's number is 678-628-8810; Nancy's is 770-265-3176) and set up a time to come by the pantry, so all your needs will be met! The pantry is not restricted to AcoCG members only—if you have family, friends, or coworkers in need, you can bring them to the pantry as well.

From time to time, you'll see a display board covered in sticky notes in the Meadowcreek lobby on Sundays; these little sticky squares list items that need to be replaced on the pantry shelves. If you're able to provide what's needed, please take a sticky note (or two) from the board, pick up those items on your next trip to the store, and bring it the following Sunday to restock the pantry for the next person who comes shopping there. Thank you so much for your help—and your prayers—for those who benefit from this assistance!

#### One Tuesday in early spring...

On Tuesdays, sisters who are available in the daytime have some wonderful opportunities to grow! Our daytime Zoom Bible study alternates with times we can walk in the park (in good weather) or at Sugarloaf Mills Mall (when it's cold or rainy). On March 7<sup>th</sup>, a few of us enjoyed seeing how God was bringing spring to life in Ronald

Reagan Park (and belatedly celebrating Wendy Muriithi's Leap Day birthday)!









To join in the study or the walking group, please contact Elaine Francis, Sherry Rouse, Mary Fields or Nancy Berry.

#### Light, darkness, and the line between

Just a few pictures showcasing God's artistry with light, available most days if we'll take time to really see it—











"Now people do not see the light which is bright in the skies..." (Job 37:21a, NASB)

We welcome news and pictures on interesting personal stories, family group activities, and more. Please send them to Nancy Berry, <a href="mailto:nberry2@qmail.com">nberry2@qmail.com</a>. Thank you!

Copyright © 2023 the Atlanta church of Christ in Gwinnett; All rights reserved. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact us at info@acocg.org