

Dear friends,

We are halfway through the year and are pleased to report that things have been going well here.

Teen club especially has been very encouraging, with many of the teens gaining confidence to think out answers for themselves, and to have the self-assurance to share their thoughts and opinions. (not something very cultural here.) Frank's talks have centred on knowing who the real God is and differentiating from the idols that pose as gods. He is also challenging them to not just blindly follow traditions but to investigate from the Bible to see if they are good traditions or not.



As far as idols go, the religious group have not yet managed to build a temple, but they have "borrowed" a building and done their annual rites, daily incantations to their god and then on the final day, paraded their idol up and down the street decorated with balloons and

streamers and candles, with heaps of fireworks. Even though the neighbourhood were all socially pressured to attend, we prayed that in the heavenly realms the angels would fight and ward off any demons who want to influence in their lives through their worshipping the idol. Please pray this with us!

(Here's an article if you wish to read more of the connections between demons and idols: (<https://frame-poythress.org/territorial-spirits-some-biblical-perspectives/>)



Frank has been working hard on renewing, repairing and repainting everything at the Centre, and we are almost ready for the next stage. This has been on our hearts for a while, and I'd like to tell you an allegory to help it make sense...

“The soldier bravely continues the battle with the enemy. He is tired and wounded, but he must carry on... there are no replacements coming in the near future, and his home leave is not designated for another year.

A general pattern for trench routine is for a man and his section to spend 4 days in the front line, then 4 days in close reserve and finally 4 at rest, although this varies enormously depending on conditions, the weather and the availability of enough reserve troops to be able to rotate them in this way. His unit has been denied the 4 days of rest due to lack of reserve troops and finances from home office. He is on the verge of throwing it all in... it’s too hard and too dangerous and there’s just no let up.



Just in time, a backup group of older, more experienced soldiers arrive on the scene... they offer him 4 days of rest to recover and renew his strength. He gratefully lets them transport him to the field hospital where his wounds are attended, and he can take a break, emotionally, physically and spiritually, knowing he is in a safe place, attended by people who care and understand what he has gone through.



After he recovers, with renewed spirit and vigour, instead of requesting early home leave, he decides to return to the front because he knows that this battle is so important to save the ones he loves.”

The burnout rate among Christian workers is alarming. Hundreds of Missionaries and Christian workers across the globe drop out of Christian service each month, many for preventable reasons. Most often they just need some regular opportunities for rest, refreshment and renewal.

Many struggle with depression, loneliness and isolation, much of which can be dealt with by someone there to mentor, love and care. Cross-cultural workers deal constantly with



higher levels of **stress***, which increases their need for member care. All Christian workers feel the need for a time of additional rest in a safe place, but more so those who work in corrupt and spiritually oppressive countries.

The statistics are scary: 80% of missionaries burn out and don't finish their term. 46% of missionaries have been diagnosed with a psychological issue, and of those 87% are diagnosed with depression. (Free Rain Int'l)



I have been through burn out with the destroyed health that accompanies it and I have taken years to recover. I now look back and realise that if I had had a time of rest in a safe place each year with someone to mentor and care for me, then I would probably have not reached that extreme.

In addition to our ministry with teens and kids, Francisco and I feel that God is now leading us to expand into **member care** for our fellow workers in Paraguay. In this way we will

contribute to many more people groups hearing the gospel than what we alone could do. Enabling missionaries to **continue** in the field with the task God has given them is vital to the great commission: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.....”

To this end we are now preparing the Multi Educational Centre to serve two purposes –

1. Continue with the teen club and the literacy classes for kids.

2. Provide a safe environment where missionaries who need a time of rest and renewal can come. We will provide them with cross-cultural counselling, mentoring, address TCK issues, and just make them feel valued, loved and connected by listening and caring. The aim is also to provide main meals together to encourage fellowship and sharing.



Please could you pray for us in this new venture:

-that God would **provide** for what is still needed (aircon units, mattresses, linen and bedding, washing machine, kitchen utensils etc.)



- that we would have **wisdom** to know who to invite and accept.

-that we will be able to **balance** out the two ministries in a healthy way.

-that the Lord would touch people’s hearts to **support** “The Oasis” financially, as our desire is to offer this without cost (apart from food) to these servants on the front line.

Love, Francisco, Joanna, Melanie and Benji.

**“In Holmes and Rahe’s original study on stress, they found that when people scored 200 points or more during a given year, the cumulative stress had an impact well beyond that year. They found that 50% of those scoring 200 points were hospitalized within the subsequent two years for heart attacks, diabetes, cancer, or other severe illness. The average cross-cultural worker scores around 600 points on average, with around 800-900 points the first year in ministry.” (Heartstream ministries)*