

TOGETHER - KHUSKA - JUNTOS/JUNTAS

The Arias- Aramayo Newsletter

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“FAMILY” TRAINING



Adonys Pérez and his wife Patricia García are responsables for “**The Resurrection**” Church (Iglesia “La Resurrección”) in the **Integración Comunal** neighborhood. They have 2 children, Santiago (8) and Isabela (3) that likes to be

with her parents during the training sessions. Adonys is a trained paramedic and he wishes to go on studying at the university to become a nurse; for the time being he dedicates most of his time to the church. Patricia is actually working as an office assistant at the Special Education Center that uses the church facilities during the week.

Their home is always open to receive the neighborhood’s youth that like to go in the evenings to chat and to navigate in Internet and to have a good laugh. Adonys and Patricia saw there an opportunity to feed the young ones with something better: prayer and Bible study. They asked us to support them in this new “faith adventure” so Luis has been going once a week for a month the results are most encouraging: assistance goes from 8 to 18 boys and girls between 14 to 21 years old (plus a couple of young adults and a young married couple).

Adonys plays the “cuatro” (Venezuelan guitar) and both he and Patricia have many creative and recreative resources to work with children and youth. Please pray for them, their children and ministry.

Eunice Arias: Advance # 013092 Z
Luis Aramayo: Advance # 013106 Z

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About us



Almost 2 months passed since we sent you our Easter reflection and 1 month since we know for sure that we'll stay in Venezuela at least till December 2011. It is still difficult for us to deal with the daily heat –all year round 100° F and more- but we have sooo many things to thank and praise God: Eunice’s health is improving; Luis patient presence gave fruits and finally he is working on what it seems to be training and sharing sustainable spaces; Eunice’s special literature on “The people called Methodist” has been used with good results. Praise be the Lord!

On family and family

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*** Our daughter Irene went from Bolivia to Uruguay to assist Eunice during her convalescence. She was a blessing to her, a special gift from our loving God. After her return to Cochabamba, Irene was invited to work at the Methodist High School as Christian Education teacher. It is a new and challenging experience for her. We trust God will guide and sustain her.



Irene + grandfather Mortimer + grandmother Beatriz.

*** We received good news from Switzerland, where our 3 sons and families live. Our grandson Ruben Ariel (17) just won an award for a Game Independent Project for computers, created and developed by

him and two friends. Grandson Alejandro (15) is interested in studying architecture...meanwhile breakdance is his hobby!



Son Andrés, wife Ruth, Alejandro (15, left), Rubén Ariel (right)

●●●Sunday May 30th we had a special worship time celebrating Pentecost and Methodist Day (Wesley's warm heart experience- May 24th) at the Christian Methodist Community. Children, youth and some adults from the 3 neighborhoods where we serve met to sing, pray, rejoice, celebrate, to proclaim God's Good News and to participate at the Lord's Supper.



Youth message: God is love



Susana Wesley teaching little John the alphabet and how to read the Bible. This happened on his 5th birthday.



Not everyone is in this picture: some were on the line for lunch...



Mmm...lunch is good!



Returning home

*** LAST MINUTE NEWS!

After a loooooong searching time today we bought a used car to help us to be in mission. It wasn't easy but we finally found one with all the documentation and taxes and permits in order...and it is also a good car. Thanks be to God...and to you!

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY: A WAY TO BE IN MISSION

For us **to be in God's Mission is a way of being** and not necessarily a way of "doing". We are sure that many Methodists around the world share this understanding. The General Board of Global Mission itself is "signaling a "cultural shift" in how the denomination does mission" (L.Bloom, UMC website): "We need to become expert in **facilitation**, passionate for partnership and open to the mission visions of our partners" said Thomas Kemper, the new GBGM General Secretary at the last Board meeting. What a challenge!

¡Facilitation! This a loved and inspiring and holistic word for us; it is an attitude and a skill, a way of being and a way of serving. We see ourselves as facilitators of/for the new and abundant life in Christ. In our comprehension "to facilitate" (from Latin: to make easier, to help bring about, to assist the progress) doesn't mean to take someone else's place: it means to accompany someone else in his/her spiritual/vital journey. It means to listen carefully and to be aware of what's going on someone else's life and the surrounding context. To facilitate is to empower people to be able to decide upon their lives, their families and homes, their churches and government, their land and natural resources, their countries. **To facilitate, in other words, is to love as God loves us.**

It seems "nice" to be a facilitator but how can we be sure that we are doing God's will? When it seems the "basic needs" for life are fulfilled, how do we live in and for God's Mission? And if the "job description" of a missionary doesn't fit the context expectations or the local conditions, how do you facilitate processes? It's easy to lose the path or to get blinded by immediate circumstances and/or by the political-social-economic and cultural context. It is easy to forget that we are in Mission in the midst of a very complex world and that we live as individuals and as faith communities always in tension between the oppressive world powers that permeate the society –including the church and its institutions- and the power arising from Jesus' cross, the power of love. **To be in Mission is to pray for the Holy Spirit to help us discern how to live as Christians in God's Mission.**

Venezuela, as any other country in the world, is a very complex country in every sense and a very open mind is needed not to judge from the first impression or from only one perspective. Sadly the Venezuelan population is polarized and people receive their "identity" and create relations depending on the side they belong and/or support. The first thing people want to know is: Are you "chavista" (supporter of Hugo Chávez, the nation's

president) or are you part of the opposition? It seems there is not place for other options...and these are not good news. At the beginning we were schocked by this polarization and it has been very refreshing to remember that this is not a "new" situation, that polarization is a social sin lived in almost every time and every place and that what is new is it is open, "on the table" for everyone to see it. Time and prayer and discernment showed us that **to be in mission in Venezuela today is to announce that there is another option:** people may decide to assume, to develop a special loving identity and to be recognized by their acceptance of Christ. People may let the Holy Spirit help them to form an inclusive identity, identity that will allow them to live without fear and will teach them to embrace people from different ideologies, cultures, visions. Another option that enables people to discern what is unjust or against an abundant life for everyone and to get committed with the transformation of society and renewal of all creation.

We thank God because the Spirit is guiding and supporting us while we facilitate encounters with Christ for teen agers, youth and adults and we support the Christian Methodist Community of Venezuela's ministry in Maracaibo.



You may donate to our ministry through this temporary number: **The Advance 00485A – Leadership Development/Venezuela**. Please be sure that you write in your check memo the number of the Advance Project **AND** "Leadership Development - Venezuela". You may also make the donation online! Go to the new GBGM site: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org> and then to The Advance page and just follow the instructions.

HOW TO SUPPORT US

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pray for us and our ministry in Venezuela * Pray for the CCMV leaders * Pray for the teen agers and youth that they may have a real and significant encounter with Christ * Send your tidings for our support <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Eunice Arias - Advance # 013092 Z</div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Luis Aramayo: Advance # 013106 Z</div> * Send gifts for our ministry through The Advance Special # 00485A – "Leadership Development-Venezuela" * Write to us; asking questions, expressing your doubts, sharing your own sorrows and joys with us. 	<p style="text-align: center;">TOGETHER-KHUSKA-JUNTOS/JUNTAS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Aramayo-Arias Newsletter Urb. Lago Azul, Calle 103 Edif. Rio Socuy, 2° B Maracaibo, Estado Zulia VENEZUELA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Email address: euniceluis@hotmail.com</p>
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