



Yenifer & Aaron Farrow

May and June 2020

Intro. and Outro.

This is truly a weird newsletter to write. This month, I will as usual tell you about the last few weeks, but I will also be speaking about the much more important transition for myself and family. In addition, I will be introducing you to Axel Eliel Farrow. Before I get into the details of our work recently, I want to foreshadow what the most imposing thing that is on my mind. My 2-year commitment will be over at the end of August. This means I will be coordinating all the logistics, documentation, fundraising to get my family back to Texas, safe and secure.

I have no idea what the next step in our plan is for my family which is what makes this newsletter so weird, I am planning for something and I do not know what that thing is. I do know that God got me here, and His plans for me are better than those I have for myself.

I want to thank you all for walking with me for the last two and a half years of this journey from the discovery period, language school, and my time here in Chile.





Introducing Axel Elil Farrow

May 28th, 2020 Axel was born here at around 5 a.m. at Van Buren hospital here in Valparaíso, Chile. He weighed in around 3260 grams which if you are an 'mercan

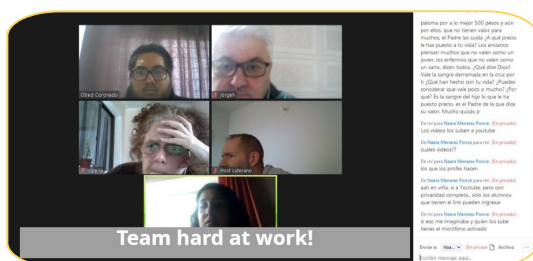
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Yenifer is doing good as well. She had a C-section which has its own challenges. She has been sore but is adapting. She is doing the late night to morning shift primarily with some help from me of course. One of our friends got us the book *What to Expect the First Year*. We are both reading it in English.

If you have been following on Facebook. Her pregnancy was not easy, with her on bed rest going back to February. As you might expect the last month has been a journey. My wife and I are learning and finding our rhythm. Luckily all the training in sleep deprivation that experienced during graduate school has helped me a lot during this challenging period.

I used to wonder what people meant when they said it changes your life. I'll be honest, I haven't laughed much in the last 20 years. I find myself looking in his eyes and doing so for no reason. He probably thinks I am a jerk for laughing while he wines.

Yeni and I are truly thankful for everyone's support in Facebook, the kind messages we received, and support for our family and mission. I guess Chile will always have a piece of our heart.



Participation Integration and Collaboration

Back in March when I was setting up our individual workshops to develop the professors, I created an accompanying document titled P.I.C. as a document that clearly defined the broader vision of our Faith Formation programming. In this article

I would like to tell you a little about that vision as to highlight where we are now in the midst of the pandemic, and how we have overcome some challenging realities.

A brief synopsis of P.I.C. Participation, Integration, and Collaboration)

Participation, has to do with our pedagogy. Participatory lesson planning revolves around creating activities exercises that involves students in the learning process.

Instead of question and answer sessions, students are challenged to synthesize their learning into a poem, song, or a diagram that correctly proves their level of understanding. It is a great way to show ourselves and our community that we are learning.

Integration on the other hand is how we share our resources and creativity. This occurs during planning for the most part. In our context, becoming acclimated with using a cloud drive with shared documents, using forms and rubrics etc.

Furthermore, knowing how to navigate and interpret them.

Finally, Collaboration is the goal of connecting the Church and our Pastors directly with our families at the school. Principally, this meant emphasizing that casting far and wide that this is an essential expectation of the program, and part of curriculum planning is having a strategy in place to achieve this. We now have a system in place where the team receives a reflection from the Pastor and lesson on the objectives from the Chaplain weekly. From there they have and are using the tools to produce some high-quality curriculum that highlights and emphasizes involving and empowering parents.

We began our journey with teachers who showed up to class without lesson plans and teachers who had not been to a meeting or had oversight in years, and students who didn't even know Pastor Juan Pablo. This was not necessarily his fault, but a disorder that existed in the culture of the school that disconnected everyone.

To be honest, if we had not been forced by the pandemic and the absolute brakes it put on everything, I am not sure if I would have got the opportunity to construct new habits so quickly. When the pandemic hit here, and the schools closed in March it was a massive psychological hit topping off months of protests and fears about the economy. Our professors were unanimated and doubtful. "No one is going to do the work we assign." some said. This is the battle we face day to day. Our work is our Field of Dreams. The pictures above are the fruits of our labor.

We have had a pretty good turn out and response so far.

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Part of the P.I.C.(Participation, Integration, Collaboration) vision was connecting the Pastor of the Valparaiso Region with the Schools and empowering him to cast the vision and the direction of our curriculum. Thanks to a gift from one our partners, (James K). we were able to get a good camera and Pastor Juan Pablo is producing videos like this to include in our home study curriculum. The mission of our church is to deliver people to the Alter so that they can know the Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. This is not going to happen if our students haven't familiarized themselves with their would be Pastor. Geographically and logistically this can be challenging with all the commitments our Pastor has.. Having a system where the team can Integrate and collaborate digitally makes it all possible. This might seem like second nature to many of you. Here, this was a dramatic shift in thinking, breaking down Silos.



Food for families in our community.



Food distributed in Cerro La Cruz (Community Center)



A meat donation.

Corona Virus in Chile Part II "The Response"

We shut down our schools in March, but we were able to move around in town with small inconveniences. That changed about three or four weeks ago. As you know S. America is being called by some the new epicenter of the Pandemic. We have been in quarantine for over three weeks by the time you read this. We can request safe conduct to the grocery store and back twice a week, but not much more than that. As you might imagine, its been rough on us and even more so for our team in Santiago, which has had quarantine on and off for almost 3 months now. All this comes with consequences, which includes lots of people losing their jobs and ability to gain income.

To respond to this need we have a few projects in different areas to help. With assistance from members of the church, neighbors, LCMS Disaster Relief, the local government, and you, we have programs meeting individual families needs, and projects where we are distributing food directly out of the Community Center. Everyone is trying to do their part. Even in our own building where I live we are coordinating with our neighbors to help a supply resources at a local food bank.

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so that we can man a soup kitchen we will be feeding the neighborhood each weekend from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pray for us that we have the resources to meet the need.

Coming Home

This is where things get tricky. I need your help to wrap up this mission in a way that does not leave my family deeply in debt. We have to get documentation for my wife and child and its not going to be easy. My wife's passport is going to expire this next month and we need to get one for Axel as well and the embassies are not operating regularly. We will need to pay for flights (Approx \$2000) and provide for our annual repatriation savings and tax burden (Approx 4,500) which we were not able to establish during our time here do to budget shortfalls. We are projecting to need a little over 7 thousand dollars extra to achieve this. As you can imagine with a new born child I am apprehensive about coming back to the U.S. with such high levels of unemployment. Its a hard decision, but I feel under the current dynamics of the mission it is what is best for my family. We have done some great things in reforming the school which was a worthwhile cause. Nevertheless, its really up to the locality to carry on with the progress we have made. My gifts, talents, and training cannot best be expressed in the current context of quarantine which is likely to persist for some time. I don't feel planning for another fiscal year on mission makes sense.

This is a lot of money to raise remotely as you can imagine, but way less then the cost to continue another year on mission. If you can contribute with a special gift we would surely appreciate it. I will also be reaching out to churches to see if we can do some congregation wide special fundraising.

Summary of Needs

Purchase Plane Tickets \$2000

Taxes \$2000

Repatriation Savings \$4000

Documents \$500

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Put "Aaron C. Farrow" on the memo line of the check.

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