

# Ritlands Preparing to Serve



## in Paraguay

### Colorado Mission Training

After a month in Colorado at MTI (Mission Training International) and 782 miles later, we are back in Iowa! We learned lots of techniques for learning languages and about the emotional tolls of moving to a new country and culture. The instructors have mission field experience and also lead a debrief for missionaries coming off of the field. They use the debrief to design the pre-field training we attended. That is so helpful!

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul talks about becoming like the people he is with, in order to win the people. Paul committed to exiting his world to enter their world. We will exit our world to enter the world of the Paraguayans. Understanding language is just the tip of the iceberg. (We are learning Spanish now and will want to learn Guarani too!) We want to understand the meaning hidden within the verbal and non-verbals of the culture. When in Paraguay, we want to do our best to do as the Paraguayans do, in order to win the Paraguayans for the sake of the gospel, without losing the offense of the gospel.

Since MTI, I have often thought about the paradox of moving. In the training they helped us recognize there are exciting things and hard things happening, all of the time, at the same time, and it is good to accept both. We are excited to go to Paraguay and join Mafú and Ednay, but it is also hard to leave our family, friends... and the farm.



### Making Plans!

Carey wrote this newsletter and then told me to add some of the "Zach effect" to it. I am not totally sure what she is expecting, but here it is.

Scheduling with churches, individuals, planning when we can meet with our online Spanish tutor... so exhausting! (I am not a planner) But just when making plans has sucked all the life out of my anti-planning bones, we meet an individual or couple so on fire for the Lord and missions that it makes the planning (mostly done by Carey) all worth it!! - Zach

### Thank You!

To everyone who has met with us recently or hosted us at their church, who has been praying for us, who has partnered financially, **THANK YOU!** What a blessing to have partners in the work the Lord is doing!

I want to close with one of my favorite verses. Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

In Christ,

**Zach & Carey Ritland**

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