

October Prayer Update 2022



Pedro and Joy Oliveira-Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe, and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

"Do we need God in the 21st Century?"



So was our question to students during our mission week at the end of September. The plan was to set up a table out the front of a few campuses, giving out tea, coffee and cookies to those willing to write down their response and stick it on our board. We were hoping the question would generate some good gospel conversations. And praise God, it did! In two hours we had 54 responses, one of them being:

"I don't believe in God but I don't think believing does anything bad, whether it helps or does nothing. So if it helps someone or does good, I respect that."

This was perhaps the most common response; a respectful 'no'. We're continually finding that Uruguayans are not as anti-Christian as we thought. I went in to mission week expecting some strong disagreement, but it was not so at all. In fact, many people were not interested in the drinks or cookies. They were happy just to leave an opinion and perhaps chat a bit. It has to be said, however, that it seems that we did not meet a single practicing Christian - not even a Catholic.



"No. If he exists, he never helped us"

One guy quickly stuck this note on and walked off, only to turn around, come back to the table and ask me politely, albeit a bit perplexed: *'So, who are you guys and what are you doing here?'* This gave me the chance to share the gospel with him and suggest that Christianity is not what he might think it is. We ended up chatting for another 10 minutes! I'm always amazed how talking about who Jesus is immediately grounds the conversation to tangible reality. He could see we weren't preaching self-improvement or good morals but a person who we really believed existed and rose from the dead. He left the conversation with a new (and more correct) picture of Christianity which we pray will lead to fruit down the track.

'Yes'

This was left by one of the Christians manning the table. This is not a small thing. For a Christian to be public about their faith, in the most secular institution in Uruguay, is hard. For me, a big encouragement of the week was seeing Christians being public about their faith, willing to be 'annoying' for Jesus.

The day was very encouraging. A staff member told me there were lots of nerves going around beforehand because in her 10 years in the CBU, they had never done this sort of evangelism on campus. But students were brave! They came away feeling encouraged by the meaningful conversations they were able to have with non-Christian students. The positive experience raised the question amongst the students and staff: 'When should we do this again?'

There were discouragements as well. We had hoped to have three days like this. We ended up with just one out the front of the Faculties of Medicine and Chemistry because of a lack of people to man the tables on the other days. It's hard when there are only 15-20 active CBU students in the whole country. But we're conscious that this is just the start; and thanks be to God, it was a good one.



Thank God for boldness and encouragement during Mission Week

Thank God

- for a really positive experience of doing evangelism on campus
- that Pedro has been able to meet up weekly with Fransisco to read the Bible and pray. (Fransisco is a homeless man we mentioned last month, who has responded to the gospel and seems to be genuinely seeking God.)
- that we've been able to work things out with Mark's school. We're able to enroll him into Year 3 when we return to Uruguay in May 2023 even though missing a couple of months of school would normally require him to repeat the year
- the arrival of Emilia's passport and booked flights for 5th of December!



Walking to church with Fransisco one brisk Sunday morning!

Please pray

- for continued fruit from Mission Week: both in non-Christians who heard the gospel and in Christians who had their first experience of evangelism on campus
- that the new Bible study group in the Faculty of Medicine and Chemistry would be able to kick off next week to a positive start
- for Francisco, that God works powerfully in his life, both spiritually in his walk with God and physically in taking him off the streets and finding work
- for someone suitable to live in our apartment while we're in Australia

Can you help?

During our home assignment in Sydney (December to May) we'd love to borrow **a car** and **an electric piano**. If you are able to help us with either of these things, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you for upholding us in prayer!

From Pedro, Joy, Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Write back to us!

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:4-5

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