

## March Prayer Update 2023



### **Pedro and Joy Oliveira-Woolmer**

*with Mark, Zoe, and Emilia*

*Serving the Lord in Uruguay*



**Dear Friends,**

Well, just like that home assignment flies past the halfway mark! With just over two months to go, we plan to send three more prayer letters before heading back to Uruguay. So we've decided to keep a similar structure to these prayer letters: an encouragement of home assignment from that month, prayer news from the CBU in Uruguay, and finally a concern in the back of our minds as we look ahead to our return to Montevideo. We hope this helps you to fuel your prayers during this "limbo" that we find ourselves in!

### **Mutual encouragement**



We have been deeply encouraged by our first two church deputations with Freshwater Anglican and Christian Assembly. (Freshwater growth group visit pictured above.) It's been obvious that many in these churches have been keeping up with our news and praying for us over the last three years, remembering things from our first term that we ourselves had (perhaps deliberately!) forgotten. They have shown a great interest in our life and ministry, and we have felt a real connection between the work in Uruguay and the local Australian church.

We have been shown many expressions of practical love: hospitality, fellowship, even someone going out of their way to drive Pedro an hour and a half (one way!) to Peakhurst, so that Joy could take the kids home in the car earlier after a big Sunday. It was wonderful to see that God's work in Uruguay is encouraging evangelism in Australia, that prayer for the spread of the gospel in Uruguay is also generating prayer for the spread of the gospel in Australia

## **CBU Prayer news**

At the moment, the CBU in Uruguay is going through a testing time. There are many complex issues at play, but one result is that there are less people serving as leaders and staff (not simply due to our absence), and many are feeling exhausted and burnt. In this climate, they are trying to organise their annual camp, which will be held in Holy Week. Please pray for more student leaders to be raised up, for the staff

to work together, and for the resources necessary to get the camp underway. And of course, pray that many students will come.

## Looking ahead

One of our concerns upon arriving back in Uruguay, has to do with Mark's schooling. Technically, any child who has missed more than 25 days of school in a year is automatically required to repeat their school year. Mark would have missed almost 50 days by the time we get back. Prior to leaving, we had discussed this with Mark's school, and were reassured that Mark should be able to enrol in Year 3 upon returning, and then successfully complete the school year with his class. But our experience in Uruguay has shown us that these sorts of assurances can be completely undermined without warning. Rules and policies are more like guidelines, and we feel very much at the mercy of whoever is working on our case on that particular day. So please pray that God would prepare the way for us, especially in regards to Mark's schooling on our return. We'd love to avoid any dramas over school enrolments after a long journey back to Montevideo.

## Upcoming partnership events

Visit one of our upcoming Church Deputations:

**March 3-10** Campus Bible Study UNSW

**March 12-17** Bowral Anglican

**March 19-24** West Wollongong Anglican

**March 26-30** South Hurstville Anglican

**April 23-28** Cronulla Anglican

Or hear from us at:

**April 18-20** Camp Milimani

Or have supper with us in our home:

5/59 Elwin Street, Peakhurst NSW

**Tuesday April 4** at 7:30pm

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/uCqhp8xYVmS39YWPA>

## Commissioning Service

You're invited to our Commissioning Service on

**Saturday 29th of April in the morning.**

More details to come. Please put this date down!

## Thank God

- that both Mark and Zoe have settled well into school and preschool, and have made some friends
- for the love and encouragement of our brothers and sisters at Freshwater Anglican and Christian Assembly
- for Emi's baptism last Sunday, and the warmth Pedro's non-Christian family felt from our partners at St Mark's West Wollongong

- for working his energy powerfully in us during a busy month
- for the joy of welcoming our first nephew, Samuel Jonathan, into the family! We are so stoked to be in Sydney right now!



*Cousins!*

*(Not pictured here is Emi's confusion and delight that there is now an even smaller member in her family!)*



*Thank God for no tears! We're so thankful that Mark and Zoe have settled well and are still really enjoying school and preschool.*

## Please pray

- for continued health, travel mercies, and energy for an even fuller month ahead
- for more gospel opportunities, even during our short time in Sydney
- that God would sustain the local CBU work and workers during a trying time
- that God would smooth the way for Mark's re-entrance into Uruguayan schooling in May

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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