

May Prayer Update 2023



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

*Serving the Lord in Uruguay*



**Dear Friends,**

We are just days from leaving Sydney for Montevideo! In the midst of packing and organising the final few things, we wanted to share with you again an encouragement from home assignment, a prayer point for the CBU, and something on our minds as we look ahead to life and ministry back in Uruguay. Please continue to pray for us: that in our weakness and fragility, God's power would be unmistakably clear to us and those around us.

## **A truth to remember**

At our commissioning service on Saturday, Craig from West Wollongong preached on Romans 1:1-17, and reminded us of what we need to hear every day: the gospel is the power of God for salvation for all who believe. He reminded us of why we must return to Uruguay, and why we can do so with courage and confidence. The truth is, we are often overwhelmed by how insignificant we are - how frail and unimpressive. How prone to tiredness and discouragement. But greater than this is the truth about God and his powerful gospel. And that's the truth to remember. Thanks Craig!



*Thanks to all who came to commission us, and for those who were with us in spirit.  
May God use our gospel partnership for his glory over the next 3.5 years!*

## **CBU Prayer news**

Last weekend, the CBU board had an important but difficult meeting. Please pray for Toto, the group's general secretary, as he leads the group through the situation. Pray for wisdom and graciousness, as well as a way forward that glorifies Jesus and nurtures the students of the CBU. And please pray that the issue at hand won't distract and hinder the growth of the gospel.

## **Looking ahead**

One lesson for us during our home assignment has been to entrust all those precious people we left in Uruguay into God's hands. We've felt far away and very handicapped in our ability to care for those we've invested the last 3 years of our time, love, and energy. And although we are so eager to be reunited with them, we are also nervous about what we're going back to. We are eager to see that they are all still joyfully following Jesus - but what if some of them are not? We feel Paul's anxiety for the Thessalonians: "But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face [...] For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain."

It's not long now, before we do see them all again, face to face. Please pray that we would be comforted and encouraged!

## Thank God

- for an encouraging home assignment. We feel spurred on to persevere in the gospel in Uruguay!
- for precious time with family and friends, both Christian and non-Christian over the last 5 months
- that all the documents we need before heading back have been provided and certified
- for the lovely messages from Uruguayans anticipating our return! We're thankful that people will be waiting for us at the airport, ready with cars to receive us and all our luggage!



*A joy to see so many primary aged kids learning from the Bible and what it means to be part of God's mission at Camp Milimani; and a photo to remember our time with St Andrew's Cronulla - thank you for welcoming us back!*

## Please pray

- that we would keep our eyes fixed on Jesus during the upcoming changes
- for comfort as we say many difficult goodbyes, particularly to family. It's hard to leave them behind
- for a drama-free journey back to Montevideo on Sunday May 7 - for physical health and safety, good humor and teamwork
- for the transition back to life and ministry in Uruguay: resettling into our apartment, getting through the jet lag, re-enrolling the kids into school, and finding a good routine
- that we would be able to reconnect well with friends, students, and neighbours

Thank you for upholding us in prayer!

*From Pedro, Joy, Mark, Zoe and Emilia*

Write back to us!

*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that  
increases to your credit.*

Philippians 4:17

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