

July Prayer Update 2023



Pedro and Joy Oliveira-Woolmer

with Mark, Zoe, and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

We were expecting re-entry to be hard. And we were (mostly!) prepared for the rollercoaster of emotions as we jumped back into things. But I (Joy) wasn't expecting it to drag on. This second month has felt harder than the first.

Highs become lows

Somehow, when we arrived back, our perspective changed. And so did our expectations. In our first term, every step forward was a win. Every conversation in Spanish, every personal connection, and every ministry opportunity was a gift from God and an answer to prayer. We left Uruguay at the end of last year with friends to farewell us and stories to bring back to you all in Australia. We left on a real high.

But coming back, this high just doesn't feel so high anymore. We've adjusted back to normal life here, and the place we left off feels kind of ordinary. We have friends, but it's going to be a while before these friendships are deep, nourishing and mutually

encouraging. We've come back to valuable gospel ministry, but our impact feels so tiny and there's so much more work we want to do. Spanish is going okay too, but there is still *such* a long way to go. There is no shortage of opportunity to be completely tongue-tied and humiliated every single day!

Why us?

And so I've felt pretty discouraged. Why me? Why us ... for this huge task? I've felt embarrassed and ashamed by my own unimpressive resumé, wishing I had given up more in the eyes of the world, so my "sacrifice" wouldn't seem so pitiful to the locals. I wonder what they must think. We're just a couple of musos from Australia, faced with an impossible job to do.

Well, while I was looking for reasons from within myself to hold my head a little higher and for energy to press on, God was gently reminding me that I was going to have to look elsewhere. Through the talks from the Equip23 Women's Conference, I was reminded of God's presence with us. His promise to be with us always, by his Spirit, until the end of the age. Overwhelmed and embarrassed, the returned exiles were told to "be strong...and work, for I am with you" (Hag 2:4). This was the call to arms I needed to hear too! At my church home group a couple of days later, one of our pastors gave a devotional on Exodus 3, where God answers Moses' own question of "why me?" again with the promise of his presence: "But I will be with you" (Ex 3:12).

Because God is with us

So thank God for these timely reminders that my confidence is in his presence alone. If I'm honest, I'd admit that I still kind of wish I had better credentials! But God must know this would only puff me up and fuel my tendency towards sinful self-dependance and self-sufficiency. Praise God that he has promised never to leave or forsake me. And this is enough, more than enough reason for us (and you!) to be strong and keep on doing the work of the Lord.

Thank God

- for the treasure of his presence with us, and the timely reminders of this in the past month.
- for a growing friendship with a Cuban family from school. Thank God that Armando (the dad) came to an evangelistic dinner at our church, and that the whole family is planning on coming to church with us this Sunday.
- for the opportunities to get to know people from church more personally at our home groups.
- that Zoe is enjoying preschool a lot more this month!



Zoe at preschool



CBU staff and student team weekend away

Please pray

- that in our weakness, God's wisdom and power would be clearly seen.
- that God would open doors to start a new Bible study group in the Faculty of Teaching and Education.
- for the group of about 12 women who will be watching the Equip23 Conference with Joy this Saturday. The talks have already been a big encouragement to her and she's pretty excited to share them with others from church and the CBU.
- that Pedro will be able to start teaching Moclam again in August. The interest has been encouraging, and it looks like there might be one new group and two continuing.



The Father's Day evangelistic dinner at church. Pray for Armando and his family to come to know Jesus!

Lasting Hope

Thanks to everyone who gave generously to the Lasting Hope Appeal. Please pray that God would bless this generosity and use it to support long-term gospel work around the world.

Tell us you've prayed!

From Pedro, Joy, Mark, Zoe and Emilia

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

Philippians 4:17

[Send us an email](#)

[Join our Facebook group](#)

[Financially support us](#)



CMS is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work together to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our vision is for a world that knows Jesus. We aim to do this by: reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ, equipping Christian leaders for church and society, and engaging churches in cross-cultural mission.

This email was sent by: CMS NSW & ACT
Level 5, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 AU

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Update preferences](#) **[Unsubscribe](#)**