

February Prayer Update 2024



Pedro and Joy Oliveira-Woolmer

with Mark, Zoe, and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

Who goes to youth group?

The answer to that question in Uruguay might surprise you! It's not to be confused with the "grupo de adolescentes", which is more or less for people in high school. Youth group, however, is for people over the age of 17 (high-school grads) right up to when people start having children! And even then, they might keep going! It's not uncommon for there to be over-30's in a Uruguayan 'youth group'.

We have noticed increasingly that this complicates things between churches and university christian groups. Pastors can see the CBU as just another youth group, but with the added peril of not being pastored by them and including young people from other denominations. Pastors worry that if their youth are involved in the CBU, they are going to stop going to youth group. It's also difficult for some of them to understand

why it's necessary. They already have discipleship, fellowship and 'good' teaching happening in their youth groups.

So what do we do?

Unsurprisingly, the most important thing here is trust. If we are able to earn the trust of individual church pastors and get them on board with the vision and purpose of the CBU, they will become more likely to encourage their young people to join our on-campus Bible studies and other activities. We want them to see the CBU as an arm of the Uruguayan church, seeking to reach the lost on campus for Jesus and support Christian students where they study.

February presented two valuable opportunities to grow trust with two churches: a baptist church in Paysandú, a town in the country's west, situated on the border of Uruguay and Argentina, and our own church here in Montevideo.

Trip to Paysandú



Last weekend, Pedro, Toto (the CBU general secretary) and two students drove 4.5 hours to participate in a church youth camp in Paysandú. We had met with the pastor of this baptist church on our trip to Paysandú in December last year, and were able to get him on board with the ministry of the CBU. The camp was a particularly important time for building trust between us and the pastor, who has seen personally how hard it is for kids from the more rural parts of Uruguay (such as Paysandú) to move to the capital to study. Many give up their studies before finishing their degree. Some even give up on their faith. And so this Baptist pastor sees the value of a

partnership with the CBU as a way of pastoring his youth as they move to the country's capital for tertiary studies. We're excited that a few of these country kids will be coming to the CBU national camp in a few weeks time. Please pray that they will be integrated into the group, and that this partnership will bear fruit.



For Pedro, a highlight from the youth camp in Paysandú was teaching a workshop on inductive Bible studies to 60 teens and young grown ups. It was wonderful to see them engaging with God's word!

Church camp

We're grateful to God for the sudden increase in trust at church too! Just a few months ago, we were wondering how and when we would be able to serve. And then all in the space of two or three weeks, they invited Pedro to preach at the church camp and again on a Sunday in March, asked Joy to teach in the kids program at camp, and also asked us to host and co-lead a Bible study group in our home this year! The other two home groups meet in the main pastor and assistant pastor's homes, so we can see that this is a big deal. It's a vibrant, gospel-centred church in the heart of Montevideo (sadly a rarity in Uruguay), so we are excited to be actively included in the ministry.

We've been reminded once again that long-term work is needed to build trust and relationships that bear the fruit of meaningful ministry. Thank you for enabling us to serve long-term in Uruguay. We pray for much fruit to your credit.



It was a camp experience like no other we'd had before! 16 guys/girls to a dorm room, lights out at 2am with breakfast at 8am the next morning. But it was a blessing to spend the weekend with our church family!

Thank God

- for our time away at church camp and for deepening relationships of fellowship and partnership
- for safe and fruitful travels for Pedro and co. to Paysandú
- that Pedro's brother João and his wife Evelyn are here to visit us for a few weeks - we're all very excited!
- for helping us navigate a long summer school break, and precious (though at times intense!) time with the children



Celebrating Chinese New Year was a fun way to kick off the campus ministry year with these key members of the CBU. We had to make our own ceiling decorations and dumplings, but many hands make light work!

Please pray

- for the annual national CBU camp coming up next month (March 22-25) on "Science and Faith". Please pray for a gospel-centred time, and for us to be able to challenge and encourage students to live sacrificially for Jesus and for his gospel in the coming year.
- for Mark and Zoe as they start school again on Monday March 4. Please pray for patience and kindness for us all as we adjust to a new and more intense routine.
- for good and clear gospel witness to João and Evelyn during their stay with us, and for them to come to know Jesus!
- for on-going wisdom and compassion as we seek to love and care for Fransisco, our friend on the streets who continues to really struggle with

alcoholism.

From Pedro, Joy, Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Tell us you've prayed!

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

Philippians 4:17

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