

March Prayer Update 2024



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

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,



March has come - and gone! Thanks for praying for our annual national CBU camp, which happened last weekend. In this prayer letter, we share our individual reflections on our time away with staff and students of the CBU.

Pedro:



They're not likely to say it unless you prod, but many young Christians in Uruguay are not satisfied by their level of knowledge of God's word. This is a big deal given that our knowledge of God comes primarily from our understanding of his word in the Bible. And so at this year's national CBU camp, I tried to make the most of the time I had to see how people were going with God, where they wanted to grow in maturity, and their depth of understanding of God's word. And I found that many of them (including the students pictured above) are hungry to learn and willing to be pushed. They loved being given the opportunity to do the work themselves, instead of just sitting back and listening to someone tell them what to think and believe. Camp reminded us of the importance of exposing young people as much as possible to the word of God, not being afraid of difficult questions and doubts, and giving them the tools to understand God's word for themselves.

As someone told us long ago, one of the best methods of learning is to teach. It was hard for me to leave much of the stuff I love to teach to someone else, but what a blessing to hear our MOCLAM students Ariana and Pipo teaching other students biblical exegesis and how to lead small group Bible studies at camp. At the same time, a new generation of CBU students are asking us about MOCLAM courses because they can see the positive effect it is having on the generation before them.

Joy:



If I'm honest, I'd have to admit that I find overnight camps pretty hard! Going as a family with young children requires a significant amount of planning, packing, flexibility, and energy - just to survive! Perhaps, for the same or different reasons, you feel the same way about camps - or church and other Christian gatherings. Perhaps you also find yourself asking whether all the effort is worth it, if all you're able to accomplish is to get through it.

We came home feeling weary and very glad it was done! But God used camp to remind me of why it was valuable just to "be there":

- It modelled to the students that commitment to Christian fellowship is part of every life stage - not just the "productive" stages.
- It gave the students a chance to get to know the kids, and see us interacting as a family. They got to see how the gospel shapes Pedro's relationship with his wife and kids - even when everyone is sleep deprived!
- It gave the kids a chance to spend time with the people their dad spends so much time teaching and training, and get them excited about the people in Pedro's ministry. Zoe hasn't stopped asking when her new friends Mateo and Mika (2nd year uni students) are coming over for dinner!
- It has fueled my own partnership with Pedro. Putting faces to names and having short chats with people have made them more real and personally valuable to me! I also want to see these young people equipped and living for Jesus.
- It gave us a chance to feel loved by the students too. It warmed my heart to see their affection for the children and their energy to play with them.

Thank God

- for a wonderful time with Pedro's brother João and his wife Evelyn. They were great visitors!
- for one-on-one time with students at the CBU camp and the chance to reconnect with youth from our previous church who are now studying in university.
- that Bible studies on campus are re-starting this week at the Science and Medicine/Chemistry faculties.
- for 9 years of Mark! We're so thankful to God for him, and the joy it is to see him growing up in the Lord. Thanks for your prayers for him!



Please pray

- that the relational momentum from camp translates into commitment from the students in terms of Bible studies and evangelism.
- that our church home group will gradually adopt the inductive Bible study method for themselves and be encouraged by what they can learn and apply from God's word.
- for our family as school routines and university ministry get into full swing and we adapt to a new (and fuller!) family schedule.
- for ongoing opportunities for Joy to chat with Carlos (who works at the haberdashery store around the corner from our home) about having true knowledge of God through the Bible.
- that Mark's former classmate, Angelo (who has sadly changed schools this year) will come to church regularly with us.
- for protection against Dengue Fever as local cases rise in Montevideo. We're experiencing a bit of a mosquito plague at the moment.

From Pedro and Joy, with 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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