

June Prayer Update 2024



## Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer

*with Mark, Zoe and Emilia*

*Serving the Lord in Uruguay*



**Dear Friends,**

Uruguay is home to roughly 3.5 million people, 1.4 million of whom live in the capital, Montevideo (where we live!). Because such a high percentage of Uruguay's population live in the capital, a lot of the country's activity focuses on developing and resourcing this city. For many years, the work of the CBU has been like this - focused on the University campuses based in Montevideo. But over the last year or so, we've been trying to expand our work to the west side of Uruguay that borders Argentina, where there are a number of university faculties and technical colleges.

Since December last year, Toto (the CBU general secretary) and Pedro have made three trips to visit churches and make connections with key Christian leaders in Mercedes, Fray Bentos, and Paysandú. Their last trip was over the first weekend of June, when they ran a weekend away in Mercedes to train up students to lead Bible studies in the places where they study. Pedro gave three talks on the word of God (its nature and purpose; how to understand it correctly and; its role in evangelism), as well as giving a workshop on how to write Bible studies.



*Map of Uruguay (Source: Wikipedia)*

What we found was that almost all the students at the camp were new to an inductive way of studying the Bible. (By an inductive approach, we mean asking questions of a biblical passage to help us arrive at the main idea of the text - you're probably very familiar and well practised in it!) It was great to teach and model this approach at the camp, but these students need ongoing support - support that is hard to give when we're geographically far away. There were other challenges too. Student life in these regional centres appears to be even less lively than that of Montevideo. So how do we inspire and motivate students to maximise their time and presence on campus for evangelism and Christian fellowship?





There were encouragements too. We met students who are hungry to know God's word better and share it with others. We met students who appear willing to take on leadership roles. And we sense future opportunities for theological training (using MOCLAM, for example) as relationships with pastors and youth group leaders grow and trust develops.

We're thankful for the weekend away and the potential openings for future ministry beyond Montevideo's borders. And we need a great deal of prayer as we seek to support the Christian youth and campus work in Uruguay's west. Please pray that those who attended the weekend away and heard about inductive Bible study would learn to use these tools well and grow in their knowledge of God through his word. Pray also for us! Pray for wisdom as we work out how to invest time and resources in regional Uruguay whilst continuing our ministry in Montevideo. Pray for insight and creativity as we deal with the challenges of ministering from afar. And pray that our partnership with churches in Uruguay's west would strengthen as a source of mutual edification.



*Thank God for the opportunity to meet and teach these students who live and study on Uruguay's west.*

## **Thank God**

- for the weekend away in Mercedes, the opportunity to train students in Bible reading and the new connections made there.

- for Joy's growing friendship with P, a fellow school mum. Lately, P has been sharing her concerns for her children (who are in Mark's and Zoe's classes) and the challenges she is facing as a recently separated single mum. Please pray that P will be drawn to Jesus and the hope and comfort only he can give.
- for the twenty-something women who are interested in joining the Uruguayan hub for Equip this year. Please pray many will come on July 20 and be enriched and challenged by God's word to us in Revelation.
- for another trip around the sun for Joy! It was a low-key day filled with reminders of God's kindness to us and expressions of love and friendship from family and friends, both near and far.



*Check out the delicious lemon cake Pedro and the kids made for Joy!*

## **Please pray**

- that the Bible study groups that have been formed out of the weekend away will get off to a good start and be well supported.
- for some quality family fun and rest next week when the kids have their winter term break (July 1-5).
- for the annual CBU staff planning retreat (July 6-7) to be focused and productive. Pray for gospel priorities to shape and drive the planning process and for a fruitful year ahead.



- that Pedro will pass his upcoming driving test and get his first local Uruguayan licence.



*And thank God for friends, and more birthday cake!*

## **Lasting Hope Appeal - the last week to give!**

We couldn't be discipling and evangelising uni students in Uruguay without your partnership in the gospel. One of the ways to express this partnership is through the CMS Lasting Hope Appeal, which helps keep missionaries like us serving on location, as well as to raise up new workers for God's harvest. Will you prayerfully consider how you can support CMS missionaries as they share the gospel of lasting hope? If you would like to contribute in this way please go to [cms.org.au/nswact/lastinghope](https://cms.org.au/nswact/lastinghope).

Thank you for upholding us in prayer!

*From Pedro and Joy, with 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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