

January Prayer Update 2025



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

On January 29th, we celebrated 5 years since we first arrived in Uruguay. We're so thankful to God for his faithfulness through all the ups and downs, and we are truly thankful to still be here! We want to say thank you to you, our friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, and partners in the gospel. Thanks for praying for us, for rejoicing with us, and for persevering with us!

In this prayer letter, we share five photos: one from each year we've been in Uruguay that captures something particular from that year. We also reflect on five years of fervent and faithful partnership in prayer, focussing on five ways God has answered our prayers in his kindness and power. And finally, we share five hopes and prayers we have as we look ahead to the next five years. God-willing, we will see these answered too!

Would you commit to another five years of praying for a Uruguay that knows Jesus?



2020 Our first selfie in Uruguay, taken with with Toto (General Secretary of the CBU) and Nico (then President of the CBU board).

After two years of full-time ministry training, four years at theological college, six months of training specifically for cross-cultural ministry, and six months of partnership building (that's seven years all up!) God brought us safely to Montevideo, Uruguay. We knew that we were just at the start of many new beginnings and challenges, but we were happy to be here!



2021 Our first MOCLAM students, Nikola (left) and Abigail (right) finishing their first subject: Creation to New Creation.

About 15 months after arriving in Uruguay, the opportunity to teach MOCLAM arose unexpectedly. We're so thankful that God opened this door and enabled Pedro to begin teaching the Bible to students of the CBU in this way. Teaching MOCLAM continues to be a joyful and fruitful ministry for us.



2022 Mark's classmates presenting him with a scrapbook of drawings and messages as they farewell him before our first return to Australia.

2022 was a year of deepening relationships, especially with non-Christian friends and neighbours. We were properly out of the pandemic and eager to connect with those we had come to know and serve.



2023 Pedro speaking at a Missionary Session at CMS Summer School.

Our first Home Assignment was like partnership encouragement on steroids! It was such a joy and comfort to meet face to face with so many of our gospel partners, to hear from you, to pray with you, and to share with you in ways we couldn't while we had been overseas. It gave us a boost of ministry love and energy before heading back to Uruguay for our second term of missionary service.



2024 The end of year dinner with the church Bible study group held in our home.

The last year has been full of encouragements in relationships and ministry. God has been so kind to grow our involvement in our church, to give us opportunities to disciple young men and women through the CBU, and deepen trust and relationships with the non-Christians around us. It was a big year!

Thank God for many prayers answered!

Some of you may recall the S.U.N. mnemonic we used in 2019 to remind you of our prayer needs as we prepared to head to Uruguay. And how you have prayed for us! Here are five specific ways God has answered your prayers. Thank him with us!

S was for Learning Spanish

- Thank God that we can speak Spanish! Not perfectly, of course, but we are so thankful that we are able to relate meaningfully in Spanish in many different contexts of life and ministry.
- Thank God for the difference learning Spanish has made to our ability to build our life here - and enjoy it!

U was for University ministry

- Thank God for the students that have welcomed us into their lives, allowed us to learn from them, and trusted us to teach and train them. It has been a joy to see these young people grow up in their faith over the last five years, growing in their knowledge of God, in their ability to teach and serve, and in their desire for godliness and evangelism.

N was for New things

- Thank God for how "at home" our kids feel in this country, and for how well loved they are. We're so thankful for the families and friends that have adopted us into their inner circle.
- Thank God for the blessing of a church that nourishes us spiritually and relationally.



Please pray for the next 5 years!

- Pray that the CBU would grow deep roots in the gospel, be hungry for God's word, and be zealous for evangelism so that many non-Christian students would meet Jesus in the Bible, turn to him and live.
- Pray that current CBU students would take the initiative to serve as student leaders and that some would become part-time or full-time staff workers on campus.

- Pray that MOCLAM would grow its reach and influence beyond CBU circles to many churches across Uruguay.
- Pray that our church (Iglesia Bíblica de Montevideo) would continue to grow and find ways to make Christ known in the community.
- Pray that God would protect our faith, our marriage, and our children. That each of us would continue to be strengthened in him, trusting and obeying him in all the ups and downs of our individual contexts.

Thank you for upholding us in prayer - **for the last 5 years!**

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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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.

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