April Prayer Update 2025





Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

And it's already almost May! Again, we've snuck in at the last minute before a new month begins. Thanks for reading and partnering with us in God's work in Uruguay!

CBU camp



The CBU camp was a mix of wonderful encouragements and frustrating disappointments. We decided to hold the camp on the other side of the country to encourage students from the west of Uruguay to participate in CBU. Some notable pastors from that part of the country said they would support us in this, but when push came to shove, not a single student from the west attended. This meant our numbers were fairly low. But saying all that, with the smaller numbers came a greater capacity to generate personal connections. Many students commented on how united the group felt and have recommitted themselves to participate in Bible studies on campus. Many students felt like they had gone deeper into God's word than ever before and this was a joyful challenge. One student said to me, "You keep talking about proclaiming Jesus. I don't think I'm doing that. What should I do?" Another said, "The prayer for unity in John 17 in order to make Jesus known really challenged me in terms of how I tend to judge people of other denominations."

Another said, "I can see that worship isn't about seeking God, it's about responding to the God who sought us!"

A very important part of the camp for us is involving the students in teaching the workshops. This year I, Pedro, asked a student from the faculty of Chemistry, Veronika, if she would like to co-lead a workshop on worship. We went through all the different ideas behind the word *worship* in the Bible and thought together on how we could teach it in an interactive way. It was exciting to see her grow in her confidence in studying a theme of the Bible in this way and see how the Bible, if we allow it to speak for itself, corrects and challenges our presuppositions and church practices. It was great to see her enthusiasm transmitted to the other students in the workshop.



Veronika (Chemistry student) and Pedro co-led a workshop at camp on Worship

Salmo 103

I, Joy, have been getting to know Veronika better too. We invited her over for lunch sometime in February, and during a conversation over a cuppa afterwards, we started chatting about Bible memorisation: it was something I wanted to start doing with the extra time I had this year. Vero suggested that I should find a memorisation partner, and then quickly volunteered herself! So over the last six weeks, we've been memorising Psalm 103 in Spanish together, sending each other WhatsApp audios during the week to help memorise and revise. We're up to verses 12 and 13 this week, and will be catching up today to chat about how we're finding it. Please pray that we'll persevere with memorisation, grow in love for God's word, and have it in our minds more and more, as a result.

Update on Roberto

Thanks for praying for Roberto, a dad from our kids' school. Over the last year and a half, our families have been growing in friendship: we've had barbecues, picnics, and family outings together. Roberto likes to talk about the Bible, and share ideas he's heard from YouTube videos he's watched. But he also has lots of questions. He knows that I, Pedro, teach the Bible in different contexts, so it wasn't too weird when I asked if he would be interested in finding answers straight from the Bible itself. And so, over the last couple of months, we've been reading through Mark's gospel together. It's been a joy! I could sense his unease initially, but he's much more comfortable now and knows what to expect. We ask three basic questions of the text each time: "What do we learn about who Jesus is?", "What do we learn about what he came to do?" and "What do we learn about what he wants from us?" During our

last meeting, the issue of salvation by good works came up. Please pray that God would open Roberto's eyes to see the truth about salvation as he reads more of the gospel.

Joy's afternoons

A couple of months ago, I mentioned having mixed feelings about my *free afternoons* while all three children were at school/pre-school. Thanks so much for praying for me in this time of change and new beginnings. I'm really thankful to God for the steady flow of opportunities to serve more at church, spend regular quality time with non-Christian mums from school, and also meet regularly to read the Bible with a couple of young Christian women. It still feels a bit chaotic; Uruguay tends to run on a fortnightly cycle, and it's been a steep learning curve to keep tabs on lots of people from different circles, on a on-week/off-week calendar! I'd love you to keep praying that I would be a good steward of my time, that I would be joyful and genuine in my witness to all those I connect with, and that God would work salvation and maturity in these women that have become so precious to me!

Thank God

- for the workshop on Worship at the CBU camp, and particularly for the valuable experience of preparing, learning, and teaching the material for Veronika.
- for the challenge to memorise and meditate on God's word with others.
- for Roberto's willingness to read the Bible with Pedro, and for the honest conversations they have had in the last couple of months over Mark's gospel.
- for his generosity towards Joy in giving her good works to do!





He is risen! Easter time was a fun and meaningful for us! We decorated Easterthemed cookies with a family from school that came to church with us, and also made chocolate Easter eggs at home for the first time!

- for students who attended the CBU camp to make good their commitment to re-join Bible studies on campus.
- for Roberto to persevere in his investigation into who Jesus is and what he came to do, and for him to respond to the truth about Jesus with repentance and joy.
- for Salomé (Roberto's wife), Magüi, and Romina (Joy's school mum friends) to continue taking steps towards knowing Jesus.
- for the two-part workshop series Pedro will be giving on Evangelism at the May and June CBU meetings. Please pray that Pedro would be able to communicate the gospel clearly and helpfully, for the workshops to be well attended, and for the Holy Spirit to motivate the students to put what they learn into practice.

Thank you for upholding us in prayer! We thank God for you.

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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