

April Prayer Update 2026



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia



Serving the Lord in Uruguay

Dear Friends,

Leadership has been a theme on our minds this month: the need for godly and capable leaders, the joy of seeing a new leader set apart for training, and the desire to see more invested into the next generation of leaders.

A need for training



Extra points if you can spot Pedro amongst the other participants of the preaching workshop!

In April, I (Pedro), participated in a preaching workshop organised by Simeon Trust. It was a time to work on my preaching but it was also an opportunity to meet a large number of pastors and preachers from all over Uruguay in one place. I was reminded once again of how hard it is to be a pastor in Uruguay. Almost all pastors here are working a full-time secular job at the same time as pastoring a church. Many of those working in the interior (more rural parts) of the country feel isolated. And conflict, both within the church and with other pastors, is common - sometimes for doctrinal reasons, and sometimes for character reasons. The discussion and feedback groups during the preaching workshop revealed a need to be better trained in handling God's word. The workshop was both an encouragement and a sober reminder. I was encouraged by the number of pastors and preachers seeking training. But I was also reminded of the great needs of the church here in Uruguay.

Nico: a pastor in training



Our pastor Andrew praying for Nico and Flor after the unanimous vote. Praise God for these two!

Which brings us to Nico! Nico is a young man at our church we've shared about before. About a year and a half ago, we shared a photo from his wedding with Flor. You've probably seen him in a MOCLAM photo or two as well. Two weeks ago, our church gave the unanimous "YES!" to him starting a two-year apprenticeship with our pastor. The goal is to equip him to be a future pastor of our church or lead a future

church plant in another part of Uruguay. It's the first time our church has done this, so it's very exciting! It will also be a time of learning for everyone. We have been so encouraged and thankful to see how the church has desired to raise up leaders from amongst its own to fill this need for godly and well-trained church leaders. It is truly a moment for rejoicing!

"A missing generation"

"There is a missing generation of leaders in the Uruguayan church." These are the words of a Uruguayan pastor who is actively seeking to raise up a new generation of pastors. While we have always seen our goal with CMS to be about raising up future leaders of the Uruguayan church, it often feels as if we're going against the grain. Most Christians in their 20's won't even consider the idea. They'll say yes to serving in the church, but the idea of leading a church, of taking on the responsibility of its growth and maturity, is out of the question. We find this attitude within the CBU too. And the problem runs deep. Even if someone became interested in training for Christian leadership, there is no clear pathway for practical and theological training. Options like a ministry apprenticeship or tertiary-level theological study, which would be the obvious pathways in Australia, are just not available here. We are saddened by this.

Wouldn't it be great if the CBU began to look out for Christians who have gospel convictions, growing character, and teachability, in order to encourage and nurture them towards leadership? Wouldn't it be great if MOCLAM could be part of the natural pathway for those considering to be pastors, leaders or preachers in their churches? Pray that it would be so!

Thank God

- that Pedro's Bible study groups have begun studying Ecclesiastes together in the Medicine/Chemistry, Psychology, and Education faculties.
- that Pedro's CBU workshop went well and was well attended.
- for Joy's fortnightly one-to-one and small group Bible studies. She's really enjoyed getting back into routine since the kids have gone back to school.
- that Mark is enjoying Youth Group! We're really thankful he can be encouraged in his faith with others around his age.



As part of the preparation for his CBU workshop on time management, Pedro used the opportunity to challenge his MOCLAM Doctrine group to think theologically with him about the topic of time. It was a really valuable learning experience for the whole group.

Please pray

- for Nico and his wife Flor as Nico begins his ministry apprenticeship on May 11. Pray for our church too, as we learn what it means to support them in this time of training.
- for churches in Uruguay to see the need to look out for, encourage, and train godly people for leadership.
- for us as we prepare to give talks on Proverbs 3 at the Young Adults meeting on May 16. We'll be splitting the guys/girls (Pedro to speak to the guys and Joy to the girls).
- for us as we teach Sunday School together for the first time here in Uruguay! Pedro joined the team recently and we're excited to serve together in this way.

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

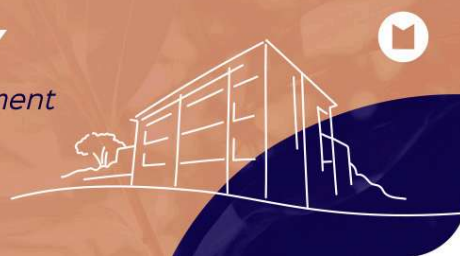
From Pedro and Joy, with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

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*"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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