

May Prayer Update 2026



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

Encouragements and joys in the ordinary

CMS is all about long-term gospel ministry. One of the wonderful things about this is that one begins to see God working through the ordinary over long periods of time. Many of you who have been in the one church for a long time, or served in a ministry over a long time would be able to give many examples of this in your own contexts. This month we would like to share how God is working through the ordinary, week-by-week ministry we are doing here in Uruguay.

Pedro: our Church Bible study group

In the majority of churches in Latin America, a church Bible study is usually an informal sermon with some discussion questions here and there. This year I'm leading a group that meets in our home with a young man called Agustín. The elders of the church have graciously given me some independence with regard to how to

lead the Bible study, so I've tried to instill a vision for our group and our time together in the Bible, to help us to focus on what is most important. I've also tried to encourage Agustín towards a more participatory approach of studying the Bible. It's something I've modelled and tried with other co-leaders from church in previous years, but they didn't really take it up. It was discouraging and I wondered if it was worth trying again. Well, it has been! To the surprise of my skeptical self, when Agustín led the study last week, he started by reminding the group of why we meet together - our group vision! He also said that it wasn't going to be a Bible talk, but a participatory Bible study where he would like to hear their contributions. It was brilliant! It also sounded so much better coming from his mouth than mine! Even more brilliant was to see a church member visiting our group (who has been vocal in the past about not liking this way of teaching) getting involved and contributing with enthusiasm.

Pedro: MOCLAM



These young people are a joy!

Teaching Doctrine has been a highlight of the year so far. It's a subject I had taught before a couple of years ago, but hadn't been received very enthusiastically by the students - my fault, not the material's! So this time around, I wanted to change things up quite a bit. One way I did this was to circulate my copy of J. I. Packer's 'Concise Theology' (translated into Spanish) to a student at the end of each class, with the task of choosing one topic from the book and giving a summary of that topic at the next class. None of the students in this group are used to reading rich (and dense!) Christian books like Packer's. So this was an attempt to cultivate the habit of reading

good books and to develop a curiosity in the things of God in them. They took up the challenge with gusto - or *ganas* as we would say in Uruguay! I was blown away by their desire to know more. Many read much more than was required, and took photos of other chapters of the book to read later. One student asked if he could borrow it after we finished the course. He's now reading a short section every morning as part of his daily Bible time.

Joy: discipling C

One of the joys of growing relationships at church is the opportunity to disciple young wives and mums. It's a ministry that looks quite different to the ministry I have with the students of the CBU - I get more last-minute cancellations, the time is usually riddled with distractions, and my living room floor is a mess by the end of it! But it is a real joy to meet despite all these obstacles because God's word is growing these women! Since the beginning of last year, I've been meeting with C, a young wife and mother. We've been studying the book of Lamentations together, and reading 'Nubes oscuras, misericordia profunda' ('Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy') by Mark Vroegoplament on the side. Parallel to our one-to-ones, Pedro and I have been meeting monthly with C and her husband E, to encourage them in their marriage and support them as they raise their young daughter. Our first meeting, back at the start of last year, felt like such a disaster that both Pedro and I were sure they wouldn't agree to a second. But God has been at work, and they've kept coming back! They've humbly allowed us to walk with them through some major hardships and it has been a joy to see them draw near to the Lord and one another in spite of the challenges. A couple of months ago, C admitted that it has been years since she has been able to talk to God about herself. While praying for other people and their suffering was fine, praying for herself was too painful and felt too pointless. But last weekend, when we met together as couples, C shared how she and E wrote a lament together, as a way to draw near to God in a time of particular suffering and worry. I felt so proud of her!

The importance of long term



Bible study group on the faculty of Medicine/Chemistry

We are so grateful to God that CMS is committed to long-term gospel ministry. This is our seventh year living and serving among the people of Uruguay, and it is only because of our continued partnership in the CMS fellowship that we've made it to this point. In some ways, 2026 has felt the most tiring, but in many ways it has also been the most encouraging. We are seeing the fruit of ordinary, everyday, gospel-shaped ministry over the past seven years and we pray that the Lord would grant us many more! Thank you for your part in the partnership!



Lasting Hope Appeal

The Lasting Hope Appeal is one of the ways people express their partnership in the gospel, supporting workers serving around the world, and raising up new workers for God's harvest. Will you prayerfully consider giving as we together share the gospel of lasting hope? If you would like to contribute please go to cms.org.au/nswact/lastinghope.

Thank God

- for his work in the ordinariness of everyday, gospel-shaped ministry and the encouragement that is for us.
- for his faithful love and care in the ordinariness of everyday life.
- that Pedro and Joy were able to give talks on Proverbs 3 at the Young Adults meeting earlier this month, and for the encouraging feedback.
- for solving various banking problems we had last month. We experienced the love and support of our church family here while we were locked out of our account for three weeks with no explanation!



Thanks for praying that students would be committed to on-campus Bible study groups during the colder months! This group on the Psychology campus is still going strong!

Please pray

- for Pedro's Doctrine students to finish their exams and essays promptly so that they can start another subject hopefully in July.
- for our *ánimo*: energy, encouragement, and perseverance. Winter has arrived early this year and brought a lot of humidity along with it. Stress, sickness and the Uruguayan Winter can wear us down.
- that V and J (Mark's classmates from his old school) would accept his invitation to go to youth group with him.
- for Pedro as he prepares to preach at church on Colossians 4 at the beginning of July.

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!

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*"Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit
that increases to your credit."*

Philippians 4:17



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.

This email was sent by: CMS NSW & ACT
Level 5, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 AU

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