

June Prayer Update 2026



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

Living in two worlds

As we enter the month of July, the feeling of living in two worlds has hit us again. Ministry life continues here in Uruguay, but we're starting to think about our upcoming Home Assignment in December. We're filling the calendar week by week with MOCLAM classes, one-to-ones, church and on-campus Bible studies, pre-marriage and marriage enrichment courses, amongst other things. But we've also got one eye on our 'Aussie calendar', looking up NSW school term dates, starting the conversation with our link churches to lock in our visits, and working out when we can set aside time to spend with our families. Our brains are starting to feel quite crowded. There are lots of unknowns and many logistical details yet to be sorted out: when our travel dates will be, what we'll do with our lease in Montevideo while we're away (we love the apartment we're renting at the moment!), how we'll get around in Sydney...the list seems to be getting longer, not shorter!

We're also feeling the mixed emotions from living in two worlds. We love Australia. We love our family and friends in Australia. We feel proud when they play in the

World Cup. How great that we've made it past the group stage! We like to make Aussie favourites for gatherings with friends, and feel proud when they like our Anzac biscuits and sausage rolls. We're looking forward to taking the kids to our favourite places in Australia, doing our favourite things, and eating much-missed foods! At the same time, we know that being there means not being here. And we love Uruguay too. We love our home here, and our kids feel happy at their school. We love our friends and Christian family in Uruguay. We felt nervous each time Uruguay played, and then devastated for our friends when Uruguay got knocked out of the World Cup earlier than expected.



*How to drink mate: they teach them young here!
(Thanks Julian for permission to use his photo for reference!)*

We also feel a deep sense of thankfulness and joy in how our children have integrated into Uruguayan culture. Just last month, we attended a special ceremony that represents a cultural rite of passage all kids in Uruguayan schools pass through in their first year of Primary School. Along with the other 59 students in Grade 1, Zoe promised to "respect and honour the flag that represents the dignity, sovereignty and glorious history" of Uruguay. It was very moving for us to consider this ceremony as a fitting symbol of our family's commitment to Uruguay. We really have invested a significant part of our lives (almost the entirety of our children's lives so far) to honour this little-known country by serving it with the good news of Jesus.



A cultural rite of passage for all First Graders in Uruguay: La Promesa de Fidelidad a la Bandera

So this month, we have really felt like we are living in two worlds. There are lots of joys and blessings, but at times it has been hard. Please pray that we would make the most of our last five months in Uruguay before our next Home Assignment. It can be tempting to be so caught up in the planning of Home Assignment that we disconnect ourselves too early from the people and responsibilities that we have here. Please pray that we would entrust our concerns to God, instead of dwelling on the unknowns or seeking to resolve them on our own. Pray too that we would honour Uruguay through our service to its people with the gospel, as well as those who support us across the sea in Australia.

Thank God

- for the way God has grown our love for this country over the years, and that we feel well integrated into Uruguayan life and culture.
- for the love and support we feel from both the worlds we are a part of.
- for the excitement our children feel about visiting Australia, even though it's not really 'home' for them.
- for a chance to rest and recharge as a family over the Winter break.



Soup night! Our church Bible study group came over for a night of hot soups and stews before the Winter recess. We're thankful to God for these people!

Please pray

- that we would hand over our worries and concerns to God in prayer instead of trying to resolve them ourselves.
- that we can rest well over the next couple of weeks; that no one gets sick despite the very cold and humid weather!
- for all the MOCLAM students who did *Doctrine* last semester to finish their exams and continue on to do a new subject in the coming semester.
- for a new group of MOCLAM students doing *Creation to New Creation* next semester.
- for Pedro as he prepares for the MOCLAM courses for the next semester, as well as a subject on the Pauline epistles that he will teach at the Seminario Bíblico de Uruguay in September.



Getting ready to brave the 6C cold on the walk to school! It's been coooold!

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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