

September Prayer Update 2026



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

September is upon us, and we are less than three months out from heading back to Sydney for our Home Assignment! Over the last three plus years, Colossians 1:28-29 has been our mission and prayer: that we would proclaim Christ, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, in order to present everyone mature in him. Over the next three prayer letters, we want to share with you what this has looked like in three areas of our ministry: evangelism, discipleship and training. We hope you will give thanks to God with us for what he is doing in Uruguay.

Christ we proclaim...warning everyone

When we think of evangelism, we think of growing pains. Not the pain associated with a huge growth in conversions *through* evangelism (though that would be nice!). Rather the growing pains we feel *doing* evangelism! It has stretched our language capacity, tested our commitment, but most painfully, it has exposed our individualistic attitudes about reaching the lost.

But growing pains are a sign that growth is happening! And God has been growing us. We appreciate more than ever before that a team effort is required to reach Uruguay with the gospel.

Noche de Pinturas



Last Saturday, our church organised an evangelistic 'Noche de Pinturas' (Painting Night). The friends we invited said "yes", and we organised for their 12-year-old son to come to our place so they could go. But at the last minute, all our plans came crashing down. A call into work, a bad back...and I (Joy) was left feeling very discouraged, frustrated, and even a little sorry for myself! After all that time and effort, (Pedro with the sermon, and me in the kitchen...we had even paid for them to attend!), our friends weren't going to hear the gospel after all. But it wasn't a waste of time and effort at all. Our friends didn't make it, but the family and friends of many others did! It turns out lots of people had their guests pull out last-minute. But that didn't stop them from going anyway, to be a friendly face and have conversations with non-Christians.

Anabella, who is a retired grandmother, decided to go even though the friends she invited didn't make it either. She shares this about the evening:

"The evening was a surprise for all the guests. They were apprehensive about whether they'd be able to create anything presentable. But it was a lot of fun! During a break in the activity, Pedro gave a talk that was quite a surprise for those two people at our table who didn't know about Christ, even though they

consider themselves Christians. He preached on the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. One of the women on my table made a very interesting comment upon hearing Pedro say that good people don't go to heaven. It gave us the opportunity to share that God values a humble heart that seeks his forgiveness. I think recognising oneself as a sinner is the most difficult thing for an unbeliever, who bases their expectations of receiving a reward on themselves and their actions. The evening raised an important question that pushed her to reflect and open her eyes. The seed has been planted; God will keep working in her!"

Local evangelists

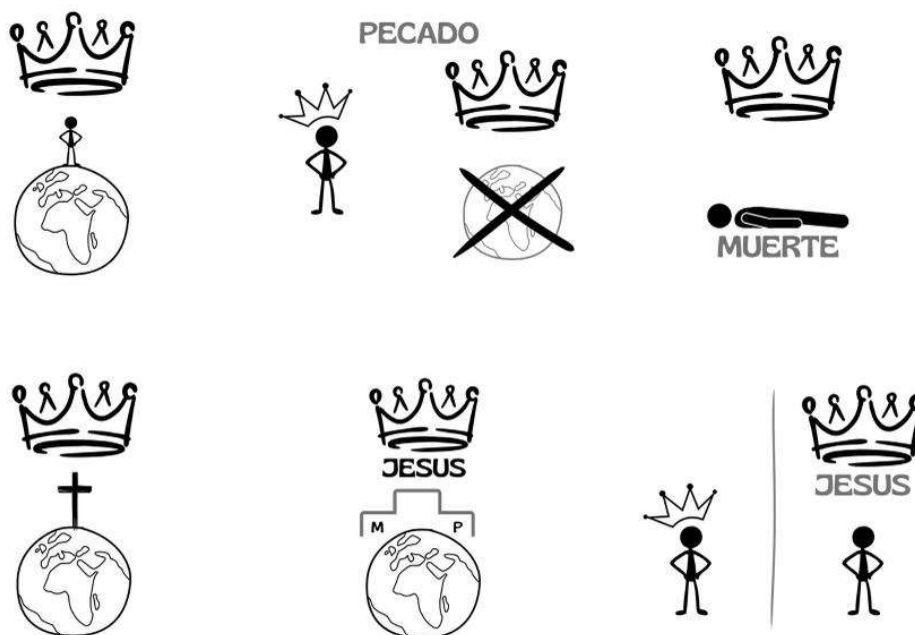
As important as it is for us (as missionaries) to be active in evangelism, it is even more important for local Uruguayans to be committed to it. In almost every way, they are far better positioned and equipped than we are to speak to their non-Christian family, friends, neighbours and colleagues about their gospel hope! Over the past year, we have been particularly challenged to see our role in the team as encouragers and enablers in evangelism. 'Two Ways to Live' training has been really helpful in this way.

Abigail, a physiotherapist from our church, is always looking for opportunities to share the gospel with people at work. Joy asked her recently how evangelism has been since doing a workshop with Pedro at the end of last year. She shared:

"Learning 'Two Ways to Live' has helped me a lot in my personal evangelism because of how practical it is! I've found that people easily engage with you through the drawings. I'm surprised by how they're willing to listen and also to learn something new about the gospel. And because of this, it's really encouraged me to go and share it with people, no matter how young or old they are."

Agustín, a young man who heads up evangelism at our church (you might remember him from a previous prayer letter!) said this about 'Two Ways to Live':

"I go out regularly to evangelise and I've seen firsthand what a great tool it is for evangelism. It's helped me to present the gospel in a 'simple' yet powerful and effective way, even for those who have never heard the gospel. People are able to follow the different parts of the gospel presentation because it's really well-designed. I really like how it invites the person to respond to what they have just heard. Thank you (to our brothers and sisters in Australia) for supporting us with materials for those of us who feel the burden of sharing the good news of salvation!"



Gaby is a young woman at church with a degree in industrial design. Her fiancé and another friend were about to go out to do some evangelism at a nearby park, when it started to sprinkle with rain. They realised that it would be tricky to use paper and pen to share the gospel, so she quickly put together this electronic version of 'Two Ways to Live', so they could go out anyway, rain or shine! We love her initiative and quick thinking!

We're so thankful for Uruguayans like Anabella, Abigail, Agustín, and Gaby. They remind us that evangelism is not an individual sport, and that we too have a part to play on the team!

Only 88 days to go!

We've got dates for our Home Assignment! We'll arrive in Sydney on the 2nd of December and will be heading back to Montevideo on the 5th of May 2027. Now that we have concrete dates we can really start working the details of our Home Assignment. Speaking of which, we need a car! If you think you could help us out by providing a car for our time in Australia, please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you!

Thank God

- for the gospel and the part we all play in its proclamation!
- for the 'Noche de Pinturas' at church, and that many who were invited heard the gospel at the event.
- that there are two MOCLAM groups this semester: a brand new group doing 'Creation to New Creation', and a veteran group doing 'Worship'.

- for opportunities to get to know some neighbours better and tell them about the Bible study group in our home.



It's been bitterly cold most evenings, but we're thankful for this core group of committed Bible study group members! Do pray that our neighbours would be curious enough to check it out!

Please pray

- that our church would not grow weary in evangelism and that they would see the fruit of their evangelistic efforts, particularly amongst those who went to the 'Noche de Pinturas'.
- that both MOCLAM groups would continue well as the semester progresses. Pray for consistent attendance to classes, eagerness to learn and be challenged, and for these students to grow in their relationship with God through what they are studying.
- that God would go before us in the preparations for Home Assignment and that we would cast any anxieties or stress about Home Assignment on him.

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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"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

Colossians 1:28-29



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Level 5, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000 AU

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