

October Prayer Update 2026



Pedro and Joy Oliveira Woolmer
with Mark, Zoe and Emilia

Serving the Lord in Uruguay



Dear Friends,

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” During these last few months before our Home Assignment, we want you to 'meet' some of the people God has brought into our lives and ministry. We also want to share how these words from Colossians 1:28 have shaped our prayers for them and ministry to them. Evangelism was last month's theme, and you heard from three Uruguayans: Anabella, Abigail, and Agustín. This month, we focus on Christian discipleship, and we want you to meet a few more locals! Arianna, Mateo, Veronika, Lucas and Paula are all young people with an appetite to grow as disciples of Jesus. We meet regularly with them to read the Bible and pray, and we asked if they would be happy to contribute to this prayer letter by sharing with you all what God has been teaching them lately, and how our time together in the Bible has spurred on their spiritual growth. We hope you are encouraged to hear what they said!



Arianna shares: In these past few years, God has been working a lot to grow my character as his child, and in helping me identify and develop gifts and skills to serve better at my church. My Bible time with Joy has been really edifying. I see growth in my ability to dig deeper into the Bible, to lead others in reading it, and to prepare Bible talks to share at my church. Our time has also helped me a lot in my daily life. Having someone I can turn to when I need advice or words of encouragement has had a significant impact on my relationship with God and with others. Not having grown up in a Christian family, Joy has also helped me to understand things from a biblical perspective, and this has helped me to know what to do in certain situations or how to make decisions that are biblically sound. I'm really thankful to God for this!



Mateo shares: God has been working particularly on how I relate to others, on the love and forgiveness he enables me to offer them, on learning to trust him more. Basically he's been at work in every area of my life! My time in the Bible with Pedro has helped me to draw closer to the Bible in a more consistent and personal way. To be able to chat, ask questions, and link what we read to my daily life has helped me a lot. It's also given me a model of how to accompany others in reading the Bible. For example, right now I am learning how to disciple someone at church, and this wouldn't have been possible without my one-to-ones with Pedro.



Veronika shares: Lately Joy and I have been chatting about how to be good stewards of the time that God has given us, and discovering the root of my struggles with this. There are various things I could mention, but one of the ways Joy has supported my spiritual growth is through her example. Over the last year and a half, we've been memorising parts of the Bible together and it has been a great blessing to meditate deeply in God's Word, to have it in our minds and repeat it to ourselves over and over. We are noticing things that we would normally miss just reading a passage, and this has grown us. Doing this together has also helped us to be consistent and has sparked lovely conversations—not only about the passages themselves but also about how they apply to us and how we go about sharing them with others.



Lucas shares: God has been growing my understanding of his sovereignty over the world, helping me to deal with anger and working on my understanding of prayer. I no longer see prayer as a sort of magic amulet, but as a way to draw near to him and to cast my anxieties upon him. Through the one-to-ones with Pedro, God has grown my way of understanding the Scriptures. There used to be books of the Bible that I found difficult to sit down with—especially the Minor Prophets—but now I can read them in a way that enriches my life.



Paula shares: My husband and I go to church with Joy's family, and I still remember the first time we met! I've been reading the Bible with Joy for the last two years and this year, we've been reading the Psalms together. Lately God has been teaching me to make him a more real part of my life, to turn to him at all times—and not just when I feel overwhelmed. I've realised that I used to feel that much of what happens in my life is too insignificant or irrelevant to turn to God with, but reading the Psalms has been a very tangible help in changing that perspective. They are an excellent example of how the way we view God determines how we draw near to him: the psalmists pour out their hearts in moments of joy, sadness, anger, fear, doubt, and worship because they know that God loves them personally and delights in their coming to him. Psalm 42 has helped me understand that I do not have to wait until my soul is at peace to seek God. Rather, I can go to him right in the midst of my restlessness. I am so grateful for Joy; her hospitality and her transparent, simple approach to the

Word have made this time together a true treasure and a delight. Through our time in the Psalms, she has helped me make turning to God my first instinct in everything I experience.

...that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Seeing people like Arianna, Mateo, Veronika, Lucas and Paula grow to be more like Jesus as we meet regularly to read the Bible together spurs us on to persevere in ministry here in Uruguay. Reading the Bible one-to-one is a model of Christian discipleship that is quite new and unknown here. But we are so thankful to God that over the last few years, we have seen a growing openness in many young local Christians to give it a go, and then to keep coming back for more! Trust takes time to build, and we're seeing the spiritual fruit of that trust in our relationships! God's word has been at work to convict, teach, and grow his people to be more like his Son. Praise be to God for this!

Can you provide us with a car?

We'll be leaving Montevideo on November 30 (that's in less than 60 days!) and headed for Sydney! During our Home Assignment, we will be travelling on the road a fair bit, to visit our link churches and for other CMS events. So we need a car! If you think you could help us out by providing a car for our time in Australia (December 2 to May 5), please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you!



We celebrated Father's Day with lasagna (by Mark!) and provolone cheese cooked the Uruguayan way. (Does anyone know if you can get provolone in Australia?)

Thank God

- for each of these young people, and the way God's word is convicting them and maturing them.
- that the current semester of MOCLAM and seminary are well underway, with good attendance and eagerness to learn from students.
- for Graciela (our elderly and widowed neighbour) and her openness to share about her life. On my (Joy's) last visit, we shared photos of our families and chatted about life after death. I mentioned that I pray for her every Thursday, and Graciela asked for prayer for her increasing memory problems and the fear she feels about losing it completely. Please pray that I would have wisdom and sensitivity to know how to help Graciela understand the gospel despite the onset of dementia.
- for Jeni and Chris Mitchell's pastoral visit in September, and the ongoing support the CMS fellowship gives us.



Spring arrived in time for the Mitchell's visit!

Please pray

- for Pedro's sermon at church this Sunday (Oct 4) on Psalm 23.
- that both MOCLAM subjects finish well this month and for students as they prepare and sit exams.
- for stability in the public university (UDELAR) after a month of disruptions from strikes and protests.
- for the kids as they get into the last term of school - we're all feeling pretty tired!
- for God's help as we juggle ongoing ministry here, and preparations both here and back in Australia for Home Assignment.



Part of preparing for Home Assignment is taking a family photo for our new prayer cards. We're not sure if CMS will accept this one, but it was our favourite! Please keep praying that we won't take ourselves too seriously as we prepare for five months in Australia and away from Uruguay!

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



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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