



THE PAULICHEN MISSION

Bringing the hope of Christ to the people of Uruguay

April 2024 Edition

I was thankful to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary to my best friend on March 13th. I praise the Lord for a partner in life and ministry who has always supported and encouraged me. I don't know where I would be without her. The icing on the cake was that our marriage seems to finally be registered in Uruguay. As a missionary, you learn that time and bureaucracy mean different things in different places. Even so, Tricia's name is wrong on the uploaded documentation, so that will be another hurdle to jump once we get back.

THE START TO FURLOUGH

Tricia and I finally finished repairing and cleaning our old house in Salto at the beginning of January. At our new apartment we unpacked just the needed items for several weeks. Before we left, we put everything into plastic storage bins, set the dehumidifier as low as it would go, and then prayed that we would find minimal mould damage when we returned in the fall.

We said a tearful goodbye to our dear church family Sunday February 11th. When we graduated from BBTI, the commencement speaker said something that has always stuck with me: missionary life is a life of goodbyes. As missionaries, we always live between both our passport country and our adopted country. There are so many people we love in each that leaving either place is never easy. After the service, we dropped off our beloved dog, Juno, at a boarding house then packed up the car and started for the airport in Montevideo.

When we arrived in Manitoba, we were shocked to find that used cars were almost as elusive as Sasquatch and with prices nearly three times what we were expecting. I guess that's what happens when you've lived overseas for a while. We finally found a nice little car with low mileage that's reliable, comfortable, and sips fuel (all were a must in our search). We're already praying for a buyer for it for when we finish furlough.

Since our arrival, we have had the blessing of presenting the work in Uruguay to two new churches. We have also enjoyed reporting to friends in four supporting ones, including at the missions conference of our sending church, Pembina Valley Baptist. While we were there, I was asked to be a guest on the missions question and answer panel at the men's breakfast, while Tricia gave her life and missionary testimony at the ladies' tea. On Friday, Tricia and I were on the roster to speak to the youth during their missions emphasis night. I was also privileged to preach as an alumni to the students at Canadian Baptist Bible College. Although our time in Manitoba was short, it was a blessing seeing how the Lord is at work in our home church.



Commissioning service for Daniel & Gabriela

We arrived at my parent's house in British Columbia at the end of March. We thanked God my 85 year old dad made it until we were able to come and see him. While dad's somewhat stable, he's definitely steadily declining. During our month with my parents, my brother and his wife came for a visit from the US. It was our first time seeing them in eight years. I praise the Lord for the opportunity to be together as a family. Please pray for my parents' health.

Praise Reports

- We were both able to see family, esp my dad before he passes
- The Lord provided a good car for furlough
- Meetings w/new churches and reconnecting with supporters
- IFB de Salto is running smoothly in our absence; new visitors

Prayer Requests

- Salvation: Tricia's family/Darlene/Fred, Sandra Harris
- Iglesia Bautista Fundamental de Salto; Daniel & Gabriela
- "T" would repent and come back into fellowship
- God to provide for our needs as we travel/increase in support

During our stay in BC, Tricia was able to drive to Calgary, Alberta one weekend to see her family. Her youngest sister was out from Australia, so it was perfect timing. The Sunday Tricia was there, she stopped at Tim Hortons after church to grab a coffee. A lady came up to her in the parking lot and introduced herself as Sandra Harris. She gave a story about how she has been struggling and needed some money to pay for a hotel room. Instead of that, Tricia offered to buy her some food. Tricia came to the Lord partly because of a chance meeting like this and was well aware of the impact such an encounter could have. Before giving Sandra the sandwich, Tricia told her that she was doing this because she was a Christian. Sandra was surprised and said that all those who had helped her since she had fallen on hard times had also been Christians. Tricia was then able to use this opportunity to share her testimony and give a clear gospel presentation. Sandra said she had recently come to believe there was a God, that He was trying to get her attention and that she didn't believe their meeting was by chance. Tricia told Sandra she knew it wasn't and said she would be praying for her. Please pray with us for Sandra.

Please also be in prayer for Tricia's mom, Darlene. She has had a bad cough for the last six months and when the doctors finally did a scan, they found a large, cancerous mass in her stomach. She is now awaiting a PET scan to find out the stage and spread of the disease. Tricia's grandfather, Fred, has also been struggling with cancer. As you may recall, none of Tricia's family is saved. Prayers for wisdom as to how the Lord wants to use us in these situations would be appreciated.

URUGUAYAN HAPPENINGS

We were excited when Patricio brought his mom to church the first Sunday of the year. Since his salvation in September, he has had a real burden to see his family saved. The Lord has recently opened a door for Tricia and I to establish a relationship with both his parents and his brother. We are looking forward to what the Lord will do in and through this family. Patricio and Candela continue to grow in the Lord and are still doing weekly Bible studies with me via Zoom as we travel.

Álvaro used to be very faithful to church but has fallen off since the pandemic. He loves the Lord and loves his Word, but the cares of this world have captured his heart. During our move, Álvaro helped out as did Patricio. The two men talked quite a bit that day and have kept in

touch since. One night during dinner at his house, Álvaro told us how Patricio told him he had heard Álvaro loved the Lord but didn't attend services often; he wondered why. Apparently this convicted Álvaro and he's been back in church ever since. We pray that this friendship with a zealous new believer will continue to encourage Álvaro in his walk with God. We've known for a long time that the Lord wants to use Álvaro and his godly wife, Anita, but he seems afraid of what surrender might mean and is resisting the call.

Unfortunately, right before we left for furlough, we had to have a disciplinary meeting with one of our members. "T" has been coming to church for the last few years, but one behaviour has been causing disunity among the brethren and offending new people who attend. With much prayer, Daniel and I went and spoke with "T". It was a difficult but necessary meeting and God was with us in the conversation. Since that time, "T" has decided to stop coming to church, but we are praying that the Lord will work in their heart and that restoration will occur.

After prayer and consultation with our sending church pastor, Daniel was licensed to preach and was accepted by the church as my assistant. When we asked them to pray about him taking the position, Daniel's wife Gabriela was in full support: "He's already been fulfilling these duties over the last few years, so the title is only a formality". This was true. We praise the Lord for willing servants in the work of the Lord. As far as Baptists in Uruguay go, it has always been difficult to get nationals to take leadership positions so this is a rarity. Please pray for Daniel and Gabriela as they lead and that the Lord would continue to strengthen and grow His church. Prayers for wisdom and direction for Tricia and I would also be appreciated. Iglesia Bautista Fundamental is becoming indigenous and we're asking the Lord to show us what role in the church He has for us upon our return.

God has graciously given me the opportunity to teach another online Spanish Bible college course in April. This time it will be on soteriology (the doctrine of salvation). Please pray that it will be at least as fruitful as the one I taught last year. Last time, there were students from 12 different countries in Latin America (including Uruguay), the USA and Europe so I am well aware of the potential for spiritual influence this course could have.

Yours for Uruguay,
Marco & Tricia

Sending Church & Mission Ministry

Pembina Valley Baptist Church
CanAmera Baptist Missions Intl.
CDN: P.O Box 415 Winkler, MB R6W 4A6
USA: Box 304 Walhalla, ND 58282



Field Address & Contact Information

Florencio Sánchez 115 Apt. 501
Salto Salto Uruguay 50000
1-940-531-1382 (US)
hope4uy@protonmail.com