



THE PAULICHEN MISSION

Bringing the hope of Christ to the people of Uruguay

January 2025 Edition

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending an extra love offering for Christmas. Your generosity allowed us to replace two tires that suddenly failed on our car, as well as replace the bike I use daily for ministry after it snapped. We were also able to purchase some needed things for our new apartment, such as curtains. Thank you for your great love and care for us.

FINISHING FURLOUGH

During October, we attended a missions conference in Mississippi and visited a number of churches in Ontario. At the end of the month, we loaded up the car and started the two day drive back to our sending church in Manitoba. We spent the last week and a half in Canada visiting friends and packing our belongings to return to Uruguay. On November 11th, we took the first leg of our flights home with a 10 day layover in the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico. It was wonderful seeing what the Lord is doing in and amongst the indigenous people in that part of the US. We had a blessed time with the brethren there

and were able to share what God is doing in Uruguay with three different churches, including in one missions conference.

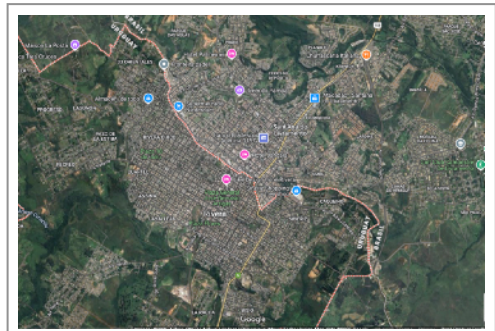
All-in-all, we drove 45,000 km / 28,000



Happy to be home again!

miles through 38 states and 9 provinces in 7 months. (We came very close to having several serious accidents along

the way. Your prayers for our safety weren't in vain.) We were able to visit 30 new churches and almost every supporting church in northern and eastern Canada, the US and Mexico. We are very thankful for the faith and trust each one of our supporters



Rivera - the Uruguayan/Brazilian border city

places in us in partnering with us in the gospel. We do not take your confidence for granted.

BACK HOME IN URUGUAY

We started the second leg of our trip home November 21st and arrived back up in Salto November 23rd. We were thankful to find our apartment in good condition upon our return. What we weren't expecting, however, was a car full of mould. We were so concerned with making sure the apartment wouldn't have any that we didn't think to take precautions for the car. We've had it detailed since then and they were mostly able to get it out, which was a blessing.

We spent the first week or so back unpacking all of the boxes in our new apartment and officially 'moving in'. It was nice to be able to finally put our clothes in a closet and our toiletries on a shelf after travelling for so long.

The first Sunday back at church was very sweet. Our folks planned a nice potluck to celebrate our return and everyone stayed after the service to participate. As a missionary, you aren't always sure what the work will look

Praise Reports

- Safety in travelling so many miles; safe return to Uruguay
- Faithful church members; Daniel pastored well while away
- Active radio, market and literature ministries
- Faithful long-term supporters, new partner churches

Prayer Requests

- Salvation: Tricia's family, Jamie, Carlos, Hector, Nelson
- "T" would repent and come back into fellowship
- Wisdom with ministry opportunities
- Continued liberty to preach the gospel in Uruguay

like when you return after a furlough. You can imagine our great relief and joy to find everyone still attending even with our long absence. Daniel did a great job pastoring and taking care of everything while we were away. We're looking forward to how the Lord is going to use this family in Uruguay in the years ahead.

We also weren't sure what we were going to find with regards to weather when we returned home. Thankfully the start to summer has been gradual this year, so it wasn't as much of a shock to our system going from a Canadian winter right into a Uruguayan summer. That allowed us to comfortably resume our market ministry as well as our literature distribution in December. I've also returned to broadcasting our daily radio program live with Daniel, which is a blessing.

This Christmas was a challenging one for us on several levels. First, it was a lonely one without our kids. Second, both Tricia and I lost parents this year which made being away from family that much harder. Then, on the 26th, we were notified that one of our ladies had found her 24 year old son after he had committed suicide. As far as we know, he was lost. Here in Uruguay there is no funeral, only a small wake and then burial or cremation within 15-18 hours of death. Both his mom and dad asked me to speak at the graveside before he was put in the crypt. When we arrived at the cemetery, we were shocked to see 80 to 100 people waiting for us. Once I started preaching, two men left. One woman who was standing near my wife told a fellow beside her she was offended and then left as well. Some people seemed to receive the message gladly, with one of the attendees greeting me at our market ministry the next day. With only 1.8% of Uruguayans being born again, I'm confident that most of the folks there heard the gospel for the first time. I've visited the family on several occasions since that day and the dad is very close to accepting Christ. Please pray.

LOOKING FORWARD

Over the last few years a man in the northern city of Rivera has been in sporadic contact with me. He recently contacted me again and asked if we would be willing to come up to his city and start a Baptist church. Rivera is a place we've been burdened for since our first survey trip in 2009. The city is a border town four hours northeast of Salto. It's an interesting place to visit, with one third of the city in Uruguay and two thirds is in Brazil. A plaza divides the two countries: everything on one side of the

street is in Spanish and everything on the other side of the street in Portuguese. We're planning on visiting there sometime this summer to try and discern the Lord's will in starting a work.

We've also been asked to help a fellow missionary in Argentina for several months in 2025. The city they minister in is six hours northwest of us near the border of Paraguay, across the river from the province in Argentina where my mom's from. Lord willing, we will spend a few days there in January. Please pray for wisdom regarding ministering in Argentina.

We're still praying about relocating to Montevideo to take intensive language classes. In the meantime, Tricia's planning to start online language classes with the school once the holiday break ends in January. I'm praying about starting soon as well. While this is not the best option (it's twice the price and at a much slower pace), we're thankful it's available.

All this to say, we're praying about what the Lord would have us do in 2025. Praise the Lord for so many ministry opportunities. It's a good problem to have! I would love to have more labourers here to help us, to see more people come to Christ, as well as to see more churches planted both here in Salto and beyond. While we'd like to do it all, we can't be everywhere and we can't do everything. We really need the Lord's guidance and direction so that we do what He deems best.

In the email portion of our last update, we asked for prayer for our upcoming elections in October. They went to a runoff vote which was held November 24th. Sadly, Uruguayans elected a Marxist to lead the country. The new president used to be part of the violent guerrilla group that terrorized the country during the dictatorship of the 70s and 80s. A number of believers we've spoken to here in Uruguay are quite concerned, knowing the kinds of crackdowns on Christians that have happened in other countries when this ideology takes control of government. May God help Uruguay. Brethren, please pray for us.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith" (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, also 1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Yours for Uruguay,
Marco & Tricia Paulichen

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