

THE ALVAREZ FAMILY

BBFI Missionaries to Uruguay, South America

Two Months

It has been two months since our arrival in Montevideo. We have been working on getting readjusted to life in Uruguay while the construction crew is finishing up the house remodeling. There have been challenging times with the construction project but we are planning on moving into the house during the next two days. We are grateful for everyone who donated towards this project and we are looking forward to a more stable life.

A New Generation

Nothing is more encouraging than seeing a new generation of volunteers and workers loving their church and serving. These past two years we have seen new faces stepping up into new roles, some more visible than others, but their service to God and community is much valued and appreciated by everyone at our church. Emily and I were so blessed to see our three boys playing music as Nahuel, a college student from our church was leading worship. We must prepare and equip people as they learn how to be the new generation of leaders at the church. As we continue to train up some of the members of the church, our prayers are with them because we know that they will enter a new battleground. Our enemy is not pleased with our involvement and service to the Lord so we must pray for one another.



2021 Goals? Really?... Absolutely!

I remember when we planned our 2020 calendar. We were ready to launch a teens and youth ministry with a desire to engage a younger crowd. Then we all know what happened. We had to reinvent ourselves with a tremendous amount of prayers trying to figure this pandemic out. Currently Uruguay is experiencing great numbers of individuals affected by COVID so church life is not what we knew before. We have been praying and assessing the situation. Many church members are afraid of participating in corporate worship at church so we are encouraging everyone to make our online service time an exclusive time at home to worship together as we stream our services. We don't know what 2021 will bring but we still have the desire to continue reaching people with the Gospel, taking advantage of the many opportunities this special time brings.

1. One of our goals is leadership training. We are praying for three of our men, *Alberto, Gustavo & Juan*. They are faithful servants from our community. Their spouses serve alongside them and we are projecting



A Christmas Tour

One of the major changes in Christmas 2020 is the fact that we will not be able to have our traditional banquet due to governmental restrictions on church gatherings. We came to the conclusion that this is an opportunity to make a difference in families that are experiencing hard times because of various reasons. Some experienced serious illness, loss of work hours, accidents, death of family members and other strenuous situations.

Our church is made of a group of generous people so it is not foreign to us as a church to come together to help others.

This year we will have a Christmas Tour. Each pastor and one or two church members will go to a particular family with a whole Christmas meal.

Some individuals donated funds to also provide a financial gift to these families. The situation is taking us to families who have never been at our church and our prayer is that they will receive the love, encouragement and the Gospel message through this activity.

a Deacons training so they can become deacons at our church. Be in prayer for them, for their marriages and for their families.

2. Another goal is to revamp our **online presence** with different teaching and engaging activities through the week. We are planning to launch some of these online activities in March.

3. Our main goal for 2021 is to find people that have been tremendously affected by the pandemic. Loss of jobs, loneliness, depression, household abuse and suicide are some of the issues we are facing in Uruguay and the church needs to be there for hurting people. The year 2021 is coming soon and we need to be ready for it!

Prayer Requests

- **Pray for salvations.** There are several close to us and to the people at our church who have not yet made a profession of faith.

- **Pray for Jimmy & Paola.** Paola comes to our church but due to job related schedules Jimmy is not able to attend. They are starting a business but mostly for them to be established in the Christian faith.

- **Pray for our pastoral team.** We need wisdom on how to face this new reality of many restrictions when it comes to church services.

- **Pray for Blanca** as she continues to learn more about her personal relationship with God through discipleship.

- **Pray for our family** as we are ready to move and finally settle into the house.

*We are extremely thankful for each of you who continue to pray and invest in our ministry here in Montevideo. The increase of Covid cases here in Uruguay has been a tremendous challenge. Some days we feel a sense of confusion and loss of words due to the many people who are affected by it here in Montevideo and in the US. One factor remains the same and that is the **God factor**. He is in control, and He will get us through this. Jesus spoke once saying that in the world we will have tribulation but he encourages us by saying "be of a good cheer, or TRUST, I have overcome this world". Let these words be an encouragement to you today!*