

The Alvarez Family

BBFI Missionaries to Uruguay

First Service! Praise God

It has been an exciting time for our ministry as we've been working on remodeling our church. Time has gone so fast and the Lord has been good to us allowing us to see a major change in our church building. The biggest blessing has been that although we had to cancel services a couple of Sundays, stream an online message and most of the time we gathered in a cramped multi purpose house, we have received new visitors and decisions were made during that time. The Lord IS GOOD. This project had a few hiccups. One night a man broke into the building, the police were called and the man was apprehended. We ended up at the police station until 3:00AM. He climbed up from the outside but in an empty building with tall walls, he couldn't get out of the building. Nothing was lost or destroyed. It was a sad situation because our church has helped this man over time. He lives on the street and is addicted to drugs. The very next morning he was walking by the church and when Esteban saw him he apologized stating that he had made a mistake. We had witnessed to him before this incident.

Then we suffered weather conditions, rain stopped the building process a couple of times but finally on September 7th we had our first service. We had no electricity and it was 42 degrees but we had the best time together, happy to see a brand new building but most of all happy to be together as one body. I always reflect on where we were 7 years ago and where we are now. The people that have come to know their Savior, how our teachers used to teach our kids on rainy days under a porch and now the spaces we have. I reflect on the many lives that have been changed. How many ladies Emily have been discipling, especially Blanca, a single mother with no education, that could barely survive financially and started to grow in the Lord and her life has been changed. How much she loves our church and volunteers to clean this church very often. I reflect on Mayra, who lived in a swamp with her 7 kids and how her big smile was so contagious the day we came together to paint the walls and over and over she said "I am doing this for God" as she will look up to the sky. I reflect on how Raphael, who lost his son Mateo due to cancer, remains faithful and is so happy about this church building. He donated the entire flooring for it. I think of how last Sunday a lady came and cried from the first song on because she has been away from God for several years, she was hurt at church and there she was with a stirred heart listening to

1

PRAISE

How people have remained faithful despite this chaotic remodeling time. The Lord is good.

2

PRAISE

Two more Sunday School classes generated in this remodeling process. Now let's go for more kids!

3

PRAISE

That discipleships and teacher's training continued without stopping.



Nicolas

Turned 18 in August and is taking his driving lessons!



Xavi

Continues with his studies and helps in many capacities at church.



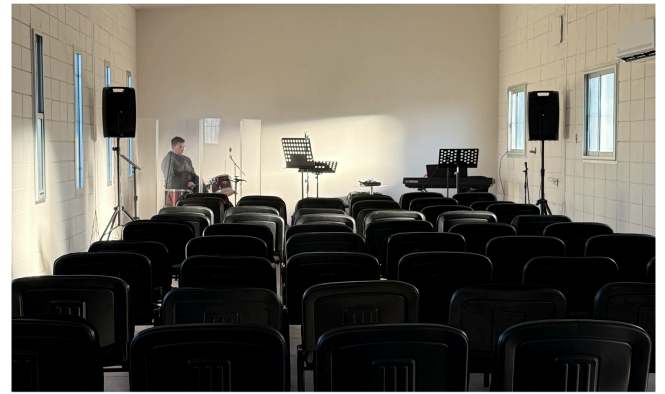
Felipe

Started his 4th year at Liberty and will be graduating in May.

First Service, Praise God...

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the word of God. I reflect on how much pain and suffering people bring to a ministry life and how the Lord through His Word, is the only one that can comfort their hearts. I reflect on the faithfulness of our parents that have laid out an example for us to follow, serving others but mainly, teaching the Word of God. What an immense LEGACY. I also think of the next generation of leaders, how our young people grow as well and the importance to invest in them. I reflect on families that have been restored and continue to be restored. I reflect on Veronica whom 5 years ago she wanted to turn her son-in-law in to the authorities and now he is sharing Sunday mornings with his family, listening and growing in the Lord. I reflect on how blessed I have been with a wife that helps me each day to be a better man, and sons that love their church and tirelessly work and make things better, I can continue with many other blessings we've witnessed the Lord doing, but mainly I reflect on my own imperfections, my failures and how God still uses me to make His name known. I love this building, how it looks, and the potential that our church has but mainly I love a God that has his hand upon this church, because at the end, it is His church. I hope these rumbling words gives you a glimpse of how excited we are about what the Lord is doing here. I hope you get excited about the people you share faith with and how blessed you are!



Picture above. Xavi setting up sound for first service.

Fundraising for the Project

As we stated in the previous letter, we took a 50 thousand dollar loan for this project.

Through the generosity of some of our supporting churches, the Lord has provided **12%** of the total funds.

If you are lead to contribute to this, please put a memo with the word "Building" so the Missions Office can allocate those funds appropriately.

A LOST CULTURE THAT NEEDS GOD

Since the new president took over, 7 months ago here in Uruguay, we've seen unprecedented events. Last month an *Umbanda* religion priest performed a ritual at the presidential office. Umbanda blends African traditions, Indigenous Brazilian elements, Spiritism, and Roman Catholicism, centered around the belief in intermediary spirits that possess mediums during ceremonies to offer guidance, healing, and wisdom to practitioners. This month, being "pride month", the president allowed a trans man to perform a very sensual dance that was aired on public television. The presidential office was filled with drag queens and advocates for the LGBT+ movement.

Uruguay desperately needs the Gospel. The great question is Who is going to respond to the call of God to the Uruguayan people and say **"here Lord, Send me?"**

Pray for our strength, our wisdom, our testimony as we labor to see more people surrendering to the Lord.