

The Alvarez Family

BBFI Missionaries to Uruguay, South America

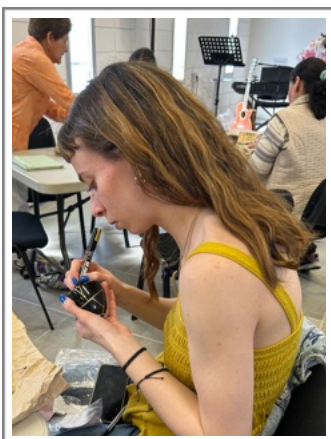


"Aunt" Nury, Emily & Monica at the Women's Conference

Women's Conference

We had a great Women's Conference with ladies from 4 different churches.

The theme was "*Kintsugi*: The Art of Restoration." Friday's theme was "Broken and Repaired" and Saturday was "Restored and Embellished". As an illustration each lady had a small ceramic vase they had to break with a hammer (life situations breaks us). Then they had to glue it back with a special Gold color glue. That represents God's beautiful work in our lives. The ladies enjoyed these two days together and several decisions were made.



Pray

For Esteban's parents as they walk together through the hardship of his mom's Alzheimers. She is entering the stage when sometimes she does not recognize people, but her love for God remains intact.



Praise

For the opportunity we had to be with Christian Community of Love Baptist church. Pastor Gabriel and Dahiana have been faithful bi-vocational leaders for 21 years.



Santiago & Yamila

Santiago is 32 years old. He grew up in church but after many years away from the Lord, he returned married to Yamila and with two little girls. They have been part of our church for a few years. One of Santiago's main concerns was his wife's salvation. Around two years ago Emily approached Yamila to talk about it and she put her guard up; she didn't want to talk about it. She even told Emily "Why is 'your salvation' the only way to be saved?" Emily noticed she was quite upset about it. What happened was that Yamila's dad studied theology at a church of a different denomination and he would question the biblical doctrine of salvation. Two Sundays ago I got invited to preach at a church here in Montevideo for their 21st anniversary. As I finished preaching Emily showed me a text that Yamila had made the decision to surrender her life to the Lord after the service. Tears came out because during my walk the previous afternoon I had prayed for both of them and

God graciously answered our prayers. She said that she has been processing everything for a long time. Pastor Gabriel was preaching that Sunday and he told us how he noticed Yamila battling in her heart while he was preaching.

Santiago was recently diagnosed with Colon Cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy and daily radiation treatments.

The first thing Yamila said the Sunday she got saved was "my decision has nothing to do with my husband's illness. I have been struggling with my salvation for a long time and today is the day I know I need to be saved".

Please pray for Santiago, Yamila, Candelaria and Alma. This is a huge test in their lives but they are trusting God and His plan during this process.

THANKSGIVING SEASON

We are thankful for every one of you who continue to pray and support the ministry here in Uruguay.

We are thankful that the Lord is doing His work in our congregation and we pray that more people will come to know the One Who Saves, Jesus Christ.

GABRIELA (GABY): AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BLESSING

Gabriela is pastor Gabriel's wife and our sister-in-law. Gabriela is one of the hardest working servants you will ever meet. She loves the Lord and works tirelessly in the ministry alongside her husband. Gabriela lost a three year old son due to cancer, Life trials continued as her oldest son walked away from the faith. Overall, Gaby remains faithful. A few years ago she and her husband went to Chile to speak at a marriage retreat. While there she had serious accident and as a consequence she broke her ankle in a horrible way. She has been in pain for the past 6 years. She goes to work every day and continues with life but it has become very hard to do so. Currently she needs to undergo a PRP treatment and her health insurance does not cover it. We would like you to consider helping with Gaby's medical bills. The total cost is 3000 dollars. This treatment will change her life and it will be a great *Christmas Gift* to her! Please send the funds with the MEMO: **Gabriela's Gift**



A Mason, a Jew and a Baptist preacher walk into a ... wedding

Last week we had Mathias and Anita's wedding. Anita has been a part of our church for several years and now with Mathias they've been serving together. In the last premarital counseling session we talked about the message they wanted to convey during the ceremony. They both said that most of their friends are atheists and do not want to go to church or hear about God. So we concurred that this was going to be a great opportunity to talk about the Gospel. Over 100 unbelievers heard the good news. At the end a man approached me to "congratulate me because of the great speech and that I had spoken some profound words". Then he said "I am Jewish and I have never heard an evangelical pastor talk with such clarity, you hit it out of the park". Later during the reception he approached me again and we talked for over an hour. Old Testament, the Commandments, Israel, and Jesus. I told him that I would love to get together and talk more and he responded in a positive way. Then another man came to express how thankful he was that I was not imposing anything about my faith but that I was respectful to people that do not have the same worldview and he said "I am a Mason". We talked for another 40 minutes or so about life after death, his position on going to a different realm after life and I told him about experiencing one or two deaths. The choice that makes a difference is our faith in Jesus. It is not possible to write all two conversations in this letter but let me tell you that it was a couple of hours of back to back conversations. It was great to interact in a personal level, knowing that they actually listened to the message. But then, there is more. Emily had helped Anita move out of her apartment a week before and met Sabrina, one of Anita's closest friends. Almost immediately Sabrina told Emily "I have never had the need to seek God, I am fine"...



... After the ceremony Sabrina tells Anita "I would love to talk to Emily about what you guys believe because I sense in her a peace I do not have". But this does not end here. At one point during the reception Anita (the bride) comes to our table and said, "Esteban, you are going to be busy because I have so many friends that want to talk to you about God and faith". At the end of the night Mathias (groom) was inviting their co-workers to church and he said "now that you know our pastors, you all can come to our services". We have prayed for their friends. After they come back from their honeymoon we are going to sit down and write down a list of people that expressed interest in listening more about faith, God or spiritual matters.

For me (Esteban) this wedding was very special as it was the very first wedding I've performed as a pastor. For Emily and I it was our first couple we walked through counseling and for our church it could be an open door for unbelievers to meet their Savior.

CARLOS & VALERIA

When we moved into our neighborhood almost 5 years ago we met Carlos and Valeria. Carlos owns a pizzeria down town Montevideo and Valeria is a social worker. Soon after we met I invited him to church and his response was genuine and humorous at the same time: "I don't go to church because preachers put me to sleep". During these years I have been able to talk to Carlos almost in a weekly basis. We talk about work, soccer, life. It is always short. A little over a month ago he drove by the church while we were digging dome ditches in the front yard, he waived. Then he said "We are gonna visit your church soon". Last month Carlos and Valeria came on a Sunday morning. After the service he said "Did you noticed I did felt asleep?" Then Valeria said "this is an answer to my prayers". She said she was faithful to an evangelical church and it is very aware that her husband is not saved. Immediately she said "I cant' talk about this because it is heavy in my heart? Last Sunday they both came and raised their hand when the question was asked if anyone wanted to become a follower of Jesus. We will continue to walk with Carlos and Valeria as they grow in the knowledge of our savior. As you see, I t has been five years since the first time I invited them. We can not get too weary because at due time we will see the fruit of our labor.

Report on The Building Project

After several months of working towards the finished project we are happy to announced that our building is done. It is a new place and the people are thankful and excited about the remodeling but especially the expansion. Thirty or more chairs can be placed and that gives us the challenge to continue to grow.

We praise God that during the construction time we had first time visitors, people saved and others making commitments to be faithful. At times it felt like it was a never ending project but the pictures show the results. We now have a modern looking building that aligns with what this area expects when they go inside any building. The church (the people) deserves a comfortable place and the first time visitors will now get a great first impression.



Before

Improvements:

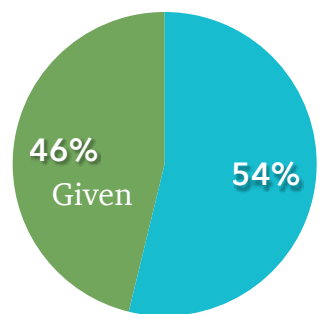
**New Roof
New Floor
New Windows
New Paint
New Lights
Acoustic Wall
Acoustic Panels
Taller Building
Modern Look
More Spacious**



After

The Christmas Project You Were Looking For...

As I mentioned before, this project was able to be completed because we took a non interest loan with the local Non Profit. The total cost of this project was 50 thousand dollars. Some churches have been able to give towards the project and we are at **almost 50%** of the total needed (**23.100 dollars**). This is a great way to make a difference!!!



Send your special offering with the memo
"Building Reserve"