

# THE ALVAREZ FAMILY

## BBFI Missionaries to Uruguay, South America

### Furlough 2026

We are approaching our latter part of our furlough journey. We have had a great time with all the churches we've visited. It is also noticeable that there is plenty to do here in the US, as we've observed people from other nations being proactive on building large size temples to promote their own religion. We tried our best to encourage churches to be a true witness in their own Jerusalem. The Lord's name needs to be proclaimed!

Another interesting fact of our furlough has been visiting churches that do not have missionaries speaking on a regular basis. It is refreshing to hear their questions and interest in global missions.

In the following weeks we will have two more churches to present our field. After that we will be attending our oldest son Felipe's graduation at Liberty University. Andres and Nicolas will join us and we will celebrate this as a family.

Emily and I are thankful for this time we spent together here in the States. This has been refreshing for the two of us as we spent almost three months without our sons but we are ready to return to Uruguay!



Richard and Cynthia receiving their baptism certificates with Rosa.

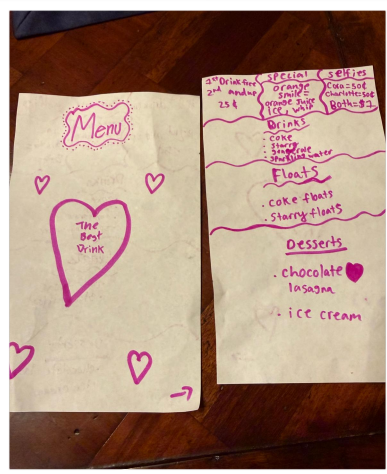
### Easter 2026

Easter is always a special time for the church. It has been hard for Emily and I to be away during this time because of our furlough, we really wanted to be there! Especially because we had the blessing to see Richard and Cynthia being baptized this past Easter. Richard texted me on Saturday night and said: "I wish you were here" and I wish we were there but it is the life of a missionary. On Easter our church received Rosa as a member. She was away from the Lord for over 20 years. She has been attending faithfully for a year and we are excited that she joined our church. The church celebrated the Lord's Supper and there were first time visitors as well.

At the end of the service Patricia, a lady who started attending church several weeks ago with her family, also expressed the desire to follow the Lord in Baptism. We are excited that people are being obedient, making the necessary steps to follow Jesus and tell the world about their faith.

### Missions Around the Table

A friend of us told me last week “on Friday, dinner at my parents with a few friends I want you to meet”. So we were game for that. What we thought was going to be a quiet evening, (we had a free day at a Conference) turned into a party with 20 people. Great conversations happened around the table. The opportunity to hear people’s life stories, hearing what God is doing in people’s lives is exciting. Right before we started our meal, we noticed that the kids were drawing some “Menus” and the items actually had prices on it. Suddenly our dear friend Charlotte (11) made the announcement: the first drink was free but after that, lemonade, tea, or



water was 25 cents. Then they said that “selfies” were 50 cents, followed by the announcement that “the proceeds of the dinner will go to the Mission work in Uruguay”. Then a special donor told the kids that they were going to match all donations. How cool is that? We are thankful that we encountered families that have a genuine interest not only in our work but many are continuing to inspire the next generation of their families by exposing them to spend time with missionaries. Missions is the heart of God and our kids need to see that! Praise God for moments such as this dinner when we see His love towards us in small but profound actions. #missions

## A Heart Breaking Moment

Last Tuesday at 8:00 AM, my phone was receiving multiple texts and calls from Uruguay at the same time. I thought something was going on but never imagined what I was going to hear: our sons’ first flag football coach (Ignacio) took his life earlier that day. We have been witnessing to him and his family for almost 10 years and they had firmly rejected the gospel over and over. Our families are close, we care for each other and now their 35 year old is forever gone. I spoke with Daniel, his father that morning and Emily spoke with Silvana from a different room. It was heart breaking. Uruguay has the highest suicidal rate in Latin America. A friend of mine who attended Ignacio’s funeral told me “Esteban, this is the third funeral I attended this month due to suicide”. It is a problem, but it is directly linked to the fact that Uruguay intentionally became a humanistic culture. Uruguayans do not understand the biblical view of life, its value and its purpose. This depressed society hides major life issues in alcohol, drugs, gambling and ultimately suicide. They think it is the solution, leaving behind hurting families and friends. Throughout the week I’ve been on the phone with over 20 people, including players, coaches, family members. They are all puzzled by this situation, because Ignacio was an elite athlete, a successful coach and as one of the players told one of our sons, “he had it all”. But we know that without Christ, human beings have nothing. Please pray for us. We are also hurting. This has been hard for our family. We lost a coach, we lost someone whose family is close to us, we lost someone who, as far as we know, never made a decision for Christ. Pray for the upcoming conversations. Whether we formally put together a grief clinic for the family and players or we have one on one talks, pray that the Gospel will be presented. Pray for Daniel and Silvana and their other sons Sebastian and Lautaro. This family had previously lost a daughter to leukemia and now this tragic loss. We both have had gospel conversations with them. They are both into the New Age movement, but God can change their hearts. Pray that the conversations will result in saved souls.

### Felipe’s Graduation



Our oldest son Felipe will be graduating next month from the Worship Music Program at Liberty University. Some of you have prayed for him throughout the years and we appreciate that. If you would like to send a Card here is his address:

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