

THE ALVAREZ FAMILY

BBFI Missionaries to Uruguay, South America

Two Saved at Camp

The Wednesday prior to the teens camp, we gathered as a church and focused our prayers on the leaders and teens that were gonna attend the youth camp. We prayed for saved souls. The Lord answered. One of them was Maxi. He is a Jr. in High School with the desire to become a civil engineer. He has attended a couple of teens events and always stated “the message is clear, the invitations too long and that he has a hard time sitting for an hour” This time his heart was ready and the seed of the gospel landed in fertile soil.

Mateo was the second salvation. He has been in and out of church for several years. His mom, Mayra, is faithful with a heavy heart for her son. Mateo had no interest in attending the camp but mom made him go. He interacted well with others and one night he told Emily that he had made a profession of faith. Please pray for him. He lives in a very difficult environment; pray that we will be there for him as he grows in the Lord. PHOTOS

Ministry Continues to thrive

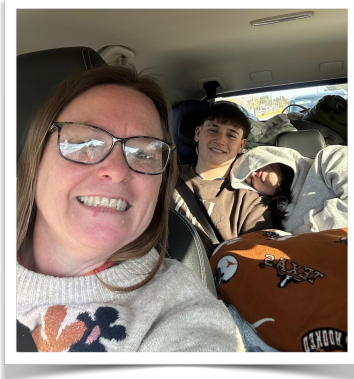
Emily and I are blessed with a team of pastors that carried the work while we were on furlough. It is always encouraging to return and meet **new believers** that have received Christ. That is the case of Richard and his family. They were driving in front of the church, saw the remodeled building and they decided to attend one Sunday. Richard and Patricia have a genuine concern about raising his children in a chaotic world. They live in a very dangerous area in our city where random shootings happened almost every night. This was a major factor for them to come to church. They actually wanted their kids to be baptized. Through several conversations, they were able to understand biblical salvation and made a profession of faith.

We are also happy to see more people participating in the **discipleship** ministry. There are several **new participants** and now a second generation of believers are helping others to grow in Christ, and we are also thinking about another level of instruction for them, whether it is Bible Institute or something similar. The **kids ministry** grew and now with the brand new classes the teachers have more to work with. Each class is equipped with a tv to show some teaching material, movies and of course one of these days they will be playing some video games there too! Why not? The Lord is good to us as we observe growth.

With growth you also experience growing pains. New believers still struggle with sin and things from the past as you and I. It is such an opportunity to walk with them, search in the Scriptures so they can repent, make changes in their lives and keep growing. In all situations we exercise love, mercy and grace as our heavenly Father does with us.



Emily & Mateo



Emily, Maxi & Delfi happy (and exhausted) returning from camp

Mateo & Agustina

If you read our letters you might recall us telling you about them. She is a psychologist and he is a professional soccer player. If you are in ministry you will also know that baby christians make decisions on their own and some of those are influenced by many factors. Family, lifestyle, cultural influences or other things. Right before we were getting ready to start our furlough they told us that they had moved in together. That was sad to hear. During the weekly meetings we never walked away from the biblical mandate of marriage, but we had to leave. And we left praying for them to reconsider things.

Ten days after our arrival in the US, we got a text stating "we are going to get married. We do not want to live in sin. As soon as you return to Uruguay we would like to do a premarital counseling". Praise God for moments like this.

Please pray for this young couple. They will be the very first individuals in their family to have a biblical marriage. Mateo comes from a family where no one has gotten married. What a testimony this is going to be! Agustina's father is a very devout catholic who plans trips to the Vatican with the intention to meet the pope. Agustina's mom is faithful at our church and growing in the Lord, which allows them to not be alone on this journey.

In recent times both have experienced challenges in their respective fields. I know the Lord is going to change that once the pieces are in the right place. Obedience is such a must in the lives of the believers and they are being obedient and putting the Lord first. Last night was our second session and one of the questions was "Why do you want to get married?" They both responded "we no longer want to live in sin.". We are looking forward to attending their wedding at the court house and celebrate their union. We are thankful that we have prayer partners like you who lift people up in your prayers.

Camp Ministry

If you grew up in church and attended camp at least once, you know that it is one of the most impactful ministries a church can be part of. We've landed into a special situation where the camp is fully equipped and organized but there were areas they needed a lot of help. Logistics, volunteers, counselors, musicians and people that would help at the kitchen at times. We felt that the investment was worth it because this camp that runs 250 twice a year, has been a blessing to our church. Our teens now have friends that are Christians, friends that can pray for them throughout the year. The first year we took 4 and this year we were 10 and our goal is to reach between 15-20 for the summer. Interesting fact is that we are the most involved church when it comes to service. We encourage our people to invest in the next generation, because that allows our church to grow and continue. It's all about a legacy.

Our main goal for the upcoming Summer Camp that runs from January 5th until January 9th, will be to provide resources to enhance the camp experience.

This will include:

- Camp Scholarships
- Training Day for Volunteers
- Polos and Shirts for Camp Directors
- T-Shirts for Volunteers
- Printing material (including banners, notebooks, stickers, pens, etc.)

This could be a great opportunity for individuals, Sunday school classes, youth departments or church wide fundraising towards this camp.

We will be providing more information on costs. If you want to start giving towards this, send your love offering with the memo **JANUARY CAMP**.



Most of these teenagers are the only believers at their house and face tremendous challenges. Camp allows them to get closer to Christian friends.



We wholeheartedly believe that the Lord is lifting up a new generation that is going to make a great impact with the Gospel in Uruguay



Pray that the Lord will use us in a mighty way as we minister to volunteers and campers through counseling moments. Ask God how YOU can be a part of this Camp in Uruguay!