

Belinda Spilman

Uruguay

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Dear Ones,

Greetings from San Jacinto and Happy New Year! I trust you started out the year with confidence and trust in God's ever abiding Grace. How sweet to know that although we can never merit His Goodness and Kindness He has extended it to us because of Christ's sacrificial death.

Speaking of that, I think of Teresa in San Ramon. Last Thursday I was explaining GRACE to the little group of ladies and ask them what we deserve from God; do we deserve forgiveness, eternal life? When the answer was no, we do not deserve anything from God, because we have sinned against Him, she quickly expressed her disbelief and confusion. "How can that be? Since I was a small child my parents taught me to be good and I have lived a good life." When I calmly said "Let's turn to Romans", she put her hand on my arm and express her NEED to know, thinking that I was not going to answer question. Which indeed was my reason for turning to Romans. She still has not truly understood that it is ALL because of what Christ has already done; His death on the cross buying our redemption. Would you pray with me for Teresa? She is in her 80's. Reads the Bible; love to read it. But as is always true, we need God's work in us to truly understand.

The reason I was teaching in San Ramon is because Tim and Kari, my coworkers traveled to the States a week ago Wednesday. Tim's mom, Char Willoughby, went to be with the Lord she has loved and served for well over 50 years. She along with her husband, Spud, served the Lord faithfully, literally all over the World. Only Eternity will tell of the many lives that were touched as a result of their lives and ministry. Pray for the Tim and the rest of the family at this time. Pray for the two memorial services planned in Kansas City and Atlanta; there will be folks there who do not know this Gracious Savior and believers that well be challenged with this life that has been faithful to the end. Praise the Lord with us for His faithful Servant.

That brings us to another area that I need your prayers. Tim and Kari will be in the States until Feb. 6 helping out with the needs of the family due to his mom's homegoing. Pray with me as I seek the Lord's direction and help as far as the ministry here is concerned in their absence. I'll plan to have the children's classes in the three towns, depending on the help that I am able to get from other believers. I already have help here in San Jacinto as well as in San Ramon. As you know I teach a Teachers' Training class at the little church I attend on Sundays. Two of the ladies that I teach will be coming to do their practice for the course here in San Jacinto teaching the group of children. It will be great to have their help as well as to see them putting into practice what they have learned. It is a little scary, but they are excited about the possibility of serving in this way. A young couple will be coming from Minas to help out in San

Ramon. Pray for wisdom as I seek the Lord's guidance with all the other details to be taken care of in the next 5 weeks or so.

Eugenia is another lady with whom the Lord has graciously allowed me to begin an Evangelistic Bible Study. Please, please pray for her as well. She truly seems to be seeking answers. With all the craziness of the Holidays, school ending for her 3 kids, extra work load, etc. we have had to put the study on hold for the last couple of weeks. We are planning on starting up again next Wednesday. Pray for her as with Teresa that God in His grace would give her His understanding of the Gospel and she would soon trust in Christ alone for her Salvation.

We are excited, a few weeks ago the first 4 graduated from FEBU, the College of Biblical Studies of Uruguay. There were 3 men and one lady. Praise the Lord with us as they are thrust out into the ministry in different areas of Uruguay. I will be teaching again this year; first semester I'll team teach Pedagogy (Christina Ed.) with Tim Willoughby and then second semester Women's Discipleship. I do appreciate your prayers as we are in the midst of preparation for first semester. It is a privilege to teach, knowing that we are, with others, helping to train much needed future leaders for the church here in Uruguay as well as, Lord willing, other areas of the world; your prayers and giving play a vital part.

Thank you so much for standing with us!

Serving together,

Belinda