

Belinda Spilman

Uruguay

April 7, 2018

Dear Ones,

Wow, a lot has happened since I last wrote. There were times that it felt like I was in a whirlwind! I have so appreciated your prayers. Let me tell you a little of what has happened and bring you up to date on present ministries.

In my last letter we were about to leave for our annual conference and soon after FEBU (College of Biblical Studies) was starting. Conference went well. It is always a joy to spend time with those who are also serving in Uruguay and Argentina. FEBU started March 5th. As I mentioned Tim, my co-worker and I, are team teaching Pedagogy. There are 6 students taking the course, three full time and three part time. It is a privilege for the College to not only serve those that are able to attend full time but those serving in their local churches as well. The College has also been able to offer some online video courses. A real help for those unable to attend due to their work schedules.

Over Holy Week Pastor Don Hall from my church in Denver came down with two young men, Shane and Ben (both 18) for a short mission's trip. We had a great time; busy but I believe profitable on lots of different levels. There were lots of ministry opportunities: musical presentations in two local schools (one was here in San Jacinto); open air children's classes; helping with some physical aspects in the church building in San Ramon; one on one contact with young people here in San Jacinto; as well as ministries in the local churches. Pray with us for Ben and Shane as they have been challenged with the needs of people and the privilege of serving perhaps in a way they have not seen before. .

There is an expression in Uruguay, "The year does not really start until after Tourism". In many ways that is true. Let me try and explain what is meant by that. Since the new year starts while it is Summer here every one is pretty keyed up for vacation and beaches. Kids are on vacation; most people get their vacations from work between December and February. Then school starts the first part of March, but everyone knows there is one more big vacation left to enjoy; Tourism week which is, of course, the week before Easter. In any other South American country that week is called Holy Week, but with Uruguay's secular/atheistic world view it is Tourism. So, everything that can possibly stop, stops for one last vacation. So, yes the year does start in January, but things really take off after Tourism Week. That was why when I ask the Principal about teaching English in the public school her response was, "Let's wait until after Tourism". And yes, a lot of other things are taking off as well. Let me fill you in on some of the things I'll be involved in so you that might pray...

Teach English to two groups of third graders on Thursdays.

Kids' Bible clubs in Tala, San Jacinto, and San Ramon – every other week in each place.

Team Teach Pedagogy at FEBU on Wednesdays.

Mentoring for leadership with 3 ladies –once every other week with each of them.

Weekly Bible study and discipleship with Eugenia.

Visit of contacts in the three towns: Tala, San Jacinto, and San Ramon.

Then of course the regular church services and the “extras” that slip in here and there.

Thank you so much for praying with me.

Before I close I need to thank you and ask you to continue to pray for Eugenia and Teresa.

Eugenia is growing and is amazed at the Salvation that God has given her. She struggles with the very difficult family situation she is living and often comments on how much of it is due to wrong decisions she has made in the past. As all of us that know the Lord know, God continues to work and guide us even in the consequences of the wrong decisions of our past. Pray for her as she learns to draw from the Lord in each situation. Also please pray for her families' salvation.

And the other one is Teresa. Remember she is the one that back in Feb. was asking questions, wanting to know the Truth. She is still asking questions. This last Thursday she kept saying “I want to understand, but I don't”. Pray for God's grace; that grace that gives understanding of His Truth. She is 81, not in good health. But she comes, every Thursday, but is still sure that somehow the “good” she has done must count somehow before the Lord. It doesn't. Only the Precious Blood of Christ counts for our Salvation! Please pray!

I'll close for now. As always there is so much more I would like to tell you about. I am so grateful for your participation in the ministry here in Uruguay. May God continue to richly bless you.

Serving together,

Belinda