



# The Simmons Family

## CHURCH PLANTERS TO URUGUAY



June 30, 2023

Dear Praying Friends and Supporters,

We trust you are enjoying your summer and maybe a little extra time off. Even though the Devil doesn't take time off, we need rest every now and then in order to be healthy in serving the Lord.

**Opportunities for Outreach:** The Uruguayan people are, for the most part, very warm and welcoming and people will gladly chat with us. Our Spanish isn't perfect, but people are very gracious to us. It is rare that people will reject a Gospel tract, but we've learned that we have to be careful how we approach the subject of church. Many people have either been burned by the church, just don't see the value of church in their lives, or are skeptical. With the Lord's help, in June we tried to focus on going to parks, public plazas, and street markets to strike up conversations with the goal of then presenting the Gospel. Since we are heading into winter, there are fewer people outside during this time of year, but it's still a good way to talk to people. My wife was able to get to know multiple moms and their kids at parks near where we may plant a church. I had the opportunity to talk with several men as well. A couple of parents we talked to told us they are actually looking for a church. Please pray for their salvation and that they would come to church.

**Church Anniversary:** On June 25, the church we are serving in while we are preparing to plant a church, celebrated its 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We enjoyed a great service looking back on all that God had done through the ministry and the missionaries there. I had the privilege to bring 10 young people to that service. Someone mentioned how the majority of people there were reached as a result of the faithful missionaries, the Silva family. A teenager turned to me and said, "*But you reached me.*" I replied, "*Yes, but it was because of this ministry that we met you.*" One of the teens there had only come two other times, so I asked Christa to witness to her. Praise the Lord that Juliana later accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour!

**The Need for Churches:** The more I pray, study the information, and talk with other pastors, the more I realize the great need for churches both in our city and in the surrounding areas. For example, out of 10 neighborhoods near the coast, which is about a 10-minute drive from us, only 2 have a Baptist church. Well over 300,000 people live there, which is similar to Greensboro, North Carolina—imagine if there were no Baptist churches there! We are tentatively praying about starting a church somewhere in that area, while also working at starting a work in the northwestern part of the city in a more lower-class area. That way we can have the opportunity to reach both middle- and upper-class people, as well as poorer people at the same time. We know that God loves and wants to save everybody, no matter their economic status! Please pray with us for clarity from the Lord in this. We are praying about shifting much of our ministry efforts to a new area in September so we can plant a church there.

Thank you for praying for and supporting us! We love you all so much.

Your missionaries to Uruguay,

Tim, Christa, Ethan, Evan, Emmalynn, and Elizabeth Simmons



The group from the church we serve in on Sunday mornings



The children singing



Christa witnessing to Juliana



Vacation Bible School

### Praise

- Opportunities to talk with people!
- The Silva family starting the church 47 years ago!
- Our family was sick with the flu for the first half of June, but we are all much better now. This really limited our ministry efforts in June.

### Prayer

- Continued growth of the children's and teen classes
- That we can continue to build relationships with adults as we witness to them
- Our Spanish
- Winter Vacation Bible School in July—for visitors and souls saved
- Opportunities to witness, as we plan to invite some families to our home in July
- Wisdom in planning our church plant

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