PLANTING AND ASSISTING CHURCHES IN **URUGUAY**

With great joy and an impassioned vision for ministry here we are excited to share with you what God has done in regard to the El Real Project.



Perceiving the Call of God

In a leadership meeting in April 2015, Pastor Gabriel Chauvie mentioned the desire and need for a new property for the *El Real* congregation. He and his father Heber, one of the deacons of our church, noticed a large, beautiful property a few blocks away from the house where they presently meet. After being listed for \$500,000, the seller decided to lower the price to \$170,000. Our leadership team began to pray, and Archie Perez and I prayed specifically over what we could do to see this vision realized. We also needed a building for our seminary, and this property seemed perfectly suited for both ministries. We contacted our sending churches and mission board, who all agreed that the attempt to purchase the property seemed to be of God.

A Campaign for the Glory of God

Our May 2015 letter outlined the terms of the campaign to raise \$100,000. We thought that with this much cash in hand, we could negotiate a purchase for even less than \$170,000. In September, when we had already reached \$30,000, a generous businessman told us that he wanted to match all funds up to \$35,000 to help us reach our goal. The deadline was December 10, and the Lord used you, our supporters, to help us reach our goal on the very day of the deadline!

Co-laborers Greatly Used by God

Upon meeting with the seller, we quickly found that the \$170,000 price tag was firm. Pastor Gabriel generously volunteered his home (he presently lives in a home his father owns) to complete the purchase, and the seller accepted. When our *escribana* (realtor/lawyer) met with the *escribano* of the seller, we were surprised to find that Pastor Gabriel's house was disqualified as a trade-in for a legal technicality. After much prayer, we decided it was our best option to buy the larger portion of the property for \$110,000 and pray that at some point in the future we could acquire the other half of the building. Just last week I called our businessman friend to update him on our progress. Though he kindly did not want to "veto" any leadership decision here in Colonia, I wasn't sure what he would say about our not securing the entire property. We had gloriously reached \$100,000, but now we knew it wasn't enough. Even with his matching contribution of \$35,000, we would still need another \$65,000 or so to buy the whole property. After asking a few questions, he shared the incredible news: "My wife and I want you to be able to move forward confidently with the purchase of the entire building as quickly as possible...we'll send \$100,000 with the 'El Real Project' memo to BWM on Monday." From here in Colonia, heaven is ringing with loud shouts of "AMEN!" for what God is doing! Truly this couple, as well as many of you, are co-laboring with us to impact eternity. As our friend recently wrote, "May this property be a fortress against evil and an oasis for the hearts and souls of Uruguayans!"

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