



## ON DEPUTATION TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO URUGUAY

December 16 was one of the hottest days of the 2013 Uruguayan summer. It was nearly 100 degrees as we prepared for our return flight to Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, the sweet memory of Christmas met us in the airport as we heard familiar renditions of beloved songs and various passersby speaking of the remarkably warm 30 degree weather. ☺

### Christmas in Uruguay

Christmas in the USA has largely become a marketing and cultural phenomenon. While business owners strategize for increased sales, their consumers are bombarded with the newest, sometimes wild musical renditions of the coming of the Christ Child. His coming was anything but wild! It was carefully planned and executed by our loving heavenly Father Who makes “every thing beautiful in his time” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Still, there are many in the USA who celebrate Christmas with reverent hearts, eagerly anticipating the Second Coming of the one-time Child! As USA culture has become global, it has become more common to celebrate Christmas in Uruguay in terms of its appeal to popular culture. As we walked by storefront windows and through neighborhoods, we saw Christmas trees and lights and images of Santa Claus and heard a confusing barrage of holiday sounds. We are burdened that many Uruguayan slaves of popular culture (Ephesians 2:2) will experience Christ’s forgiveness so that they, too, might eagerly anticipate His return! We are excited about the “Historical Christmas Program” that the church in Colonia will be hosting on Sunday—we wish we could have attended! Please pray with us for the salvation of many Uruguayans and for the edification of the church.

### Objectives Met and One Missing

In the last prayer letter, I expressed some of our objectives for our time in Uruguay:

- Getting reacquainted with friends—we had a wonderful time with and received valuable counsel from our friends in Montevideo, the Moyanos. We also established deeper friendships with the Perezes, our future coworkers, and the other believers in Colonia. *Though we tried to contact and find Clara, a lost Jewish woman, we were unable to do so. We continue to pray for her.*
- Touring Montevideo and Colonia—just visit our Facebook page (see below)!
- Checking houses and prices—we visited a few houses and apartments for sale in Colonia and fell in love with one in a developing neighborhood. It’s right in our price range. We hope it’s still available when we return.
- Interviewing language schools—we spoke with two and have a good idea of what each offers.
- Working to be a blessing to the church in Colonia—we were able to participate in their ministries, including preaching, sharing our testimonies and Saturday visitation.

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