

Dear Family, Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for keeping up with our ministry here in Colonia and for your faithful prayers that enable us to impact eternity for Christ. We believe that your love and sacrifice are the reasons we are experiencing both the present blessing and present need that we will try to relate in this letter.

Both of our families, the Perezes as well as the Rehfeldts, have sensed God's blessing in our work together. With different skill sets but one love for the Lord and for each other, we have a vision for reaching all of Uruguay through providing quality training through our local church, *Iglesia Bautista Fundamental*. This vision began in 1998 when the Perezes moved to Colonia and planted the church. Though it has experienced marked trials, it is presently thriving and has planted two daughter-churches that are growing. One is located in a neighborhood of Colonia called *El Real*, and the other is in a city called *Nueva Helvecia*. A third effort has been made in *Tararias*, while an exciting new fourth plant is underway in *Rosario*.

Not until the Rehfeldts arrived in 2014 has the institute of the church received someone's full-time, dedicated attention. The need for this is evident, as over twenty students have enrolled this year and others have expressed interest in joining next year. Besides the growth we anticipate in the institute is the growth being experienced by the *El Real* congregation. While the mother church meets in its own building in a neighborhood called *El General*, the *El Real* congregation meets in the Perez home under the guidance of Pastor Gabriel Chauvie.

We are writing this letter for three reasons: 1) that you may rejoice with us over what God is doing here; 2) to raise an awareness of the present need and request your prayers; and 3) to ask you to consider how you might help believers here financially.

A couple of years ago a property became available on the main road of *El Real*, only a few blocks away from where they presently meet. On 32,000 square feet of beautiful terrain is a building with eleven classrooms, four bathrooms, and a large dining room and kitchen. Toward the back of the property are two houses that are in good shape. Just recently the owners lowered the price from \$500,000 to \$170,000. We believe that if we had \$100,000 in hand, we could get the property for even less than the \$170,000. As the Perezes, Rehfeldts, and national leaders have labored in prayer over the possibility of acquiring this property, we believe the following conditions justify the attempt to acquire it:

1. The *El Real* congregation has outgrown the Perez home. They regularly see fifty persons in attendance, and have had services with nearly eighty. They need their own building.
2. The Perezes and Rehfeldts have had to turn away four students who were interested in attending the institute this year because there was no housing for them. It seems unlikely that these same students and others like them will both remain in Uruguay and/or remain faithful to Baptist distinctives unless we can acquire this building.
3. The size of the property and building seem to be a perfect fit for the needs of the *El Real* congregation and the institute. There is just enough space to encourage growth, but it is not so large that it would feel strange for either group to be using it.
4. The property is divided into two lots with the dividing line going right through the middle of the building, which is symmetrical. Legally, half of the property would eventually be in the name of the *El Real* congregation, and the other half in the name of *Iglesia Bautista Fundamental*, the home of the institute. All of it would be in the hands of national leadership, none in the hands of our U.S. mission board. For the last eight years, Pastor Gabriel consistently has shown himself to be a compassionate and competent leader.

5. *Iglesia Bautista Fundamental* has hosted a number of national conferences in the past that will continue this year. Visitors from both Uruguay and Argentina are expected to come. Having a building and two houses to host visiting pastors and families would be a blessing for everyone involved.
6. The churches here are very poor by U.S. standards. They are being encouraged to give sacrificially, but acquiring a property like this is unrealistic without help from others. The church presently has \$10,000 reserved for the purchase of a property. We would need at least \$90,000 from other believers to begin negotiations for the property.
7. We have labored over the question of whether or not the intentions of this letter will help these churches be and remain indigenous. While we remain completely open to any questions or concerns any of our supporters may have, we believe asking for a voluntary offering like this does not contradict any New Testament method for church-planting. Rather, the believers here seem to recognize the good work of God in sending them leadership from abroad (the Perezes and the Rehfeldts) and we believe the same appreciation would accompany their continued zeal in serving God in a new building (compare 2 Corinthians 9:10-15).
8. Should only a portion of the needed funds come in, the money will be kept entirely and specifically for the same kind of project.
9. We believe it will be impossible to buy this property unless God Himself is working on our behalf. While we are comforted that our sending churches and mission board give their complete support for this project, we realize that God will have to do a special work in our supporters' hearts for this vision to be realized. We will rest and wait on Him, and rejoice that He will advance His work His way.

We have done our best to provide a concise explanation of both the present blessing and present need of this ministry. Your love and sacrifice have already reached the hearts of many Uruguayans. Many have received eternal life through Jesus Christ and many are being discipled and strengthened. We believe God has opened a door for us to acquire this property, but believe that this will require the generous and sacrificial help of our family, friends, and supporters in the United States.

If you believe God is leading you to help the churches here by giving to this project, you may write or call our Mission Board using the following information:

Attention: Jesse Garza
Name of Project: El Real Building Fund
Baptist World Mission
PO Box 2149
Decatur, AL 35602
Phone: 256-353-2221

We love and appreciate all of you, and are thrilled to be representing Christ for you here in Uruguay. May God do His work, His way, in His time.



Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Arkio Perez' and the second is 'Jonathan Rehfeldt'.