



# The PAULICHEN MISSION



## October 2025 Update

I praise the Lord for His **faithful work in the city of Salto, Uruguay** these many years. In August, we were honoured to attend and speak at the **75th anniversary of the Slavic Baptist church** here in Salto, the very congregation my grandfather helped to found and served in until the day of his death. My grandfather was the first one in our family to come to Christ. I praise the Lord for such a heritage. It was a blessing to share a few words and reflect on the **long legacy of faith** in both our family and our city.

### Praise Report

- 75th anniversary of a faithful church
- Apologetics ministry enthusiasm & growth
- Good attendance at jail ministry
- Safe travels & encouraging ministry opportunities in Argentina and Paraguay
- Medical clearance for Tricia

### Prayer Requests

- Salvation for G and spiritual growth
- Fruit from apologetics and jail ministries
- Healing, wisdom & provision for Tricia's upcoming surgery
- Safe travels & joyous wedding for Joshua
- November missions conference

#### **Sending Church & Mission Ministry**

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In July, our city welcomed a **new intendente**, a position combining the roles of mayor and provincial premiere or state governor. Though I wasn't able to meet him in person, I did have the opportunity to **leave a Bible and a personal letter** for him at his office. It was a small gesture, but one that we trust the Lord will use. Planting seeds of faith and encouragement often begins in subtle ways, and we are trusting God to grow them in His timing.

Around the same time, one of the men I've been witnessing to, **G**, finally came to church after many months of invitations. He stayed with me for over two and a half hours afterward, sharing about his life. A few days later, he met a pastor from a city three hours away at his work. Unaware that G had just attended church for the first time, the pastor told him he needed to get in contact with me. We can't help but wonder if it was **small world coincidences, God opening G's heart**, or a combination of both. We began meeting weekly for **Bible studies** shortly thereafter. August, however, brought tragedy when G's boss passed away suddenly. **Please pray** that G reflects on his own mortality and seeks the Lord.

Over the past two years, our congregation has experienced a number of challenges that have impacted **regular attendance**. A few of our families have moved away, combined with losing a vehicle and driver who previously helped members get to church has affected us greatly. Other faithful members have faced personal hardships: one lost a leg and another is now a full-time caregiver for a parent who suffered a stroke. Sporadic employment in this region often conflicts with Sunday services. Despite these declines, the Lord continues to bring **visitors**, and our **young people's apologetics group** has become a bright spot, energizing all involved.



Our first ever apologetics study for students!

The **apologetics studies** began in July with five young people. Every other Saturday, lessons and discussions covering both the **evidence for our faith and strategies to defend it** often extend beyond three hours, filled with eager questions and rather active engagement. After a few meetings, one of the young men asked if there was a **Baptist seminary in Uruguay** because he hopes to serve as a pastor! (Unfortunately,

there is not.) These students, often mocked at university for their faith, are **undeterred**, seeking the truth even in a culture that is actively anti-Christian. Members have reported that the study is **proving**

**spiritually fruitful**, and we are already seeing growth as students bring friends and multiply the group. Within the last two months, attendance had grown to **eight young people**, each hungry to defend and live out their faith to the glory of God. May God mightily equip these possible future leaders of the church here in Uruguay!

My jail Bible studies continue to be a place of encouragement. I consistently have around **twenty men** in attendance each week, and have seen notable seekers like L who is regularly questioning and exploring faith with genuine interest. Every encounter here reminds me of the **far-reaching impact** of investing in people who are open to the Gospel, even in places that society often overlooks.

Our **itinerant ministry in Corrientes, northern Argentina**, has been a continued blessing. From June through September, we traveled every other weekend to support the **church plant** there, teaching and encouraging the people. On September 21, we held our last service with them for a while. During one of our trips in August we made a short journey across the border into **Paraguay to explore ministry opportunities in the country's second-largest city**. Despite a rich Christian culture compared to Uruguay, **we were unable to locate a single IFB church in the area**. We did, however, spend some time with **local believers**, observed the trilingual population of Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, and Guaraní speakers, and took note of the rolling hills and landscapes reminiscent of our home province of Alberta. On our return to Argentina, we visited a **native Guaraní village** we had first surveyed in 2009 to explore potential future ministry possibilities there. **The fields are white...**

On our trips to and from Corrientes, we always passed the **Gauchito Gil shrine**, a well-known idol site adorned with red ribbons. In August, we stopped to observe the large shrine and more clearly understand its significance. By the end of September, I used our visit there as the basis for a Sunday sermon, contrasting the **historical certainty of Christ** with the baseless legends of local idol worship. For an entirely European population, Uruguayans are quite superstitious people.



The main part of the shine to the idol, Gauchito Gil, in Mercedes, Argentina



The many plaques of answered prayer to the idol – how convicting to us as Christians!

Similarly, everyday encounters continue to present **spiritual conversations**. In July, while looking for Himalayan sea salt for a recipe at the grocery store, I asked a worker there I know where I could find it. He

looked at me quite seriously and asked if I was buying it to perform a “spiritual cleansing” ritual. I was taken aback, but it’s moments like these that are **windows into the cultural and spiritual landscape** we navigate daily.

Looking ahead, we are excited for several upcoming events. In October, our son **Joshua will be married** in the United Kingdom. We are thrilled to see how God has brought him and Gabriela together and are praying for wisdom as we support them in this new chapter. November promises to be equally full, with our church’s **anniversary missions conference** bringing together special speakers: a Uruguayan pastor and a guest from North America, the **head of Baptist Bible Translators Institute**, from which we are alumni. Friends who pastor a supporting church will also be visiting, and we look forward to reconnecting with them as well.

Not all of our recent news has been joyful. In early September, **Tricia began experiencing pain under her eye**, accompanied by pressure in her cheek and teeth. After multiple consultations and scans, she was diagnosed with what looks like a **congenital, slow-growing osteochondroma (a benign bone and cartilage tumour)** in her maxillary sinus, initially mistaken for a large cyst. The tumour is large and solid enough to have broken her **orbital bone**. Its rarity left many doctors uncertain about what it was or how to proceed. We are grateful that a **specialist reviewed her case** and cleared her to travel for Joshua’s wedding, but she will require further consultations and **invasive facial surgery**, including the extraction of the tumour and facial bone reconstruction, upon our return. **Please pray** for wisdom in medical decisions, healing, and, as all medical expenses here in Uruguay are paid out-of-pocket, provision for the financial needs of this **complex facial bone procedure**.

Thank you for **walking alongside us in prayer, encouragement, and support**. Your partnership makes all that we do possible.

Yours for Uruguay,  
Marco & Tricia Paulichen

