



The PAULICHEN MISSION



APRIL 2026 UPDATE

We have to begin this letter with our sincerest gratitude. Over the past several weeks, many of you have reached out with personal messages, prayers, and encouragement during Tricia's medical journey. Your care has meant more than we can express. We're especially thankful for those who gave financially toward her surgery. **Because of your generosity, the expenses were fully covered and then some.** We could never have imagined such an outpouring of grace through the churches. Over the past month, we've seen the Lord provide in very real and timely ways through His people. **With full hearts, we thank you for your love and kindness.**

Praise Report

- Tricia's healing, wisdom for medical decisions regarding Fibrous Dysplasia
- Surgery expenses covered by your generous giving
- 7 men trusting Christ in jail ministry
- Daniel's upcoming ordination & his readiness to lead the church forward

Prayer Requests

- Tricia's healing & Fibrous Dysplasia
- Daniel's ordination on April 24th & his new role as pastor
- Apologetics studies & new believers in the jail, particularly W.
- Ministry in Montevideo & clear next steps

Sending Church & Mission Ministry

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TRICIA'S HEALTH UPDATE

Tricia continues to recover from her March 10th surgery. While the bruising has mostly subsided, the left side of her face remains quite swollen and numb. At the end of March, she met with her surgeon for the biopsy results and received a diagnosis of a **rare bone disease called Fibrous Dysplasia**. The good news is that **it isn't cancer**. There are, however, additional health concerns related to this diagnosis that will now need to be evaluated. Because the condition is chronic, it will require ongoing monitoring, and further surgery may be needed in the future.

While at the clinic in Argentina, Tricia also met with a neurosurgeon who had access to her recent surgery records. He carefully reviewed whether the brain tumour and the fibrous dysplasia might be linked. **As far as the doctor could tell, they are not.** This was welcome news. He recommended a follow-up MRI at the six-month mark in June to monitor for any growth. If there's no change, she'll move to yearly MRIs thereafter. Please pray for wisdom as we navigate the next steps in her care, and for continued healing and restoration.

EVANGELISM & OUTREACH

The new year brought fresh opportunities for ministry. Extra days at the open-air market in January allowed us to serve there twice a week. **Several of our people stepped in to help**, enabling us to maintain both the market outreach and our Saturday apologetics Bible study. Running the two ministries at the same time was a great blessing.



Working together to get the gospel out

The bi-monthly Saturday apologetics Bible study continues to be one of the highlights of our ministry. It's especially encouraging to see the young people hungry for truth. They regularly bring friends, both believers and those still searching. Together we wrestle with hard questions and learn how to defend our faith. The ministry is intentionally reproducible: our goal is to equip the students to eventually lead their own studies. I provide the teaching framework and training while they gradually carry more responsibility. I'm praying especially **for one young man** who has shown

strong leadership potential, that he might take on this role more formally. Looking ahead, **we'd love to see similar self-sustaining, student-led studies established on multiple university campuses across Uruguay.** Prayers towards this end are appreciated.

Our jail ministry remains one of the most unique and sobering aspects of our work. Each week, 15–20 men attend the Bible studies. Many listen attentively, engage with the Scriptures, and ask sincere questions. At times, we can see understanding taking root and hearts beginning to soften.

In February, the Lord gave a special encouragement: seven men trusted Christ in one of our weekly meetings! Daniel was with me that day, and we left rejoicing in what God had done. Since then, we've reconnected outside the prison with one young man, W., who was among those saved and was recently released. Please pray that these decisions take deep root and produce lasting change and that we will see W. in church soon.

I also recently witnessed the Lord's hand in a remarkable way. E., a relative of one of our church ladies, was recently imprisoned. I prepared a small packet with Scripture and a personal note for him, unsure how I would find him in such a large facility. During one Bible study, I asked if anyone knew E. At that exact moment, he was standing at a chain-link fence in another section of the prison, looking directly at us. In a facility of 500 inmates with restricted movement, this was clearly the Lord's doing. Thankfully, I was able to go straight to him and deliver the packet. **Please pray for E.'s repentance and salvation;** it seems God is powerfully seeking his attention.

CHURCH LIFE & DISCIPLESHIP

We rejoice to share a major answer to prayer: **Iglesia Bautista Fundamental de Salto is now an officially recognized entity by the government of Uruguay!** What was expected to be a quick four-month process stretched into 26 months; such is life in a developing country. This legal designation is required for any organized group, whether a soccer team or a chess club. **In practical terms, it marks a significant step forward for the stability and future of the ministry** as it finally allows us to open a bank account in the church's name and to legally rent or purchase property as the Lord may lead. We praise the Lord for bringing this to completion in His perfect timing.

Near the end of last year, the Cuban refugee family we mentioned previously returned to Salto. Since January, the mother and daughter have found a warm place of belonging in our church family and attend services regularly. Their testimony has stirred a deeper awareness of the needs in that country. Because of that, our church has begun seeking tangible ways to support believers there. It's been encouraging to watch this burden grow.

We are also thankful to see Daniel stepping further into leadership. As mentioned in our last letter, he's completed his Bible institute training. **We rejoice that his graduation and ordination is scheduled for April 24th.** In a country where 75% of pastors have little or no formal training, this is a significant milestone. We're looking forward to this joyful time of celebration and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in equipping His servant for the work of the ministry.

A SIGNIFICANT TRANSITION

For the past two years, Tricia and I have been praying through an important question: ***When is a church plant no longer a mission, but a fully functioning church?***

We have often reflected on how this work began. Since our first survey trip to Argentina and Uruguay in 2009, we asked the Lord to make His will unmistakably clear. During our second survey trip in 2016, **we met a small group of believers who had prayed for over twenty years for a Baptist pastor to come and plant a church in Salto.** When we met them, it was evident that the Lord had answered both their long-standing prayers and ours. We sensed our own **"Macedonian call"** to "come and help us," and we knew Salto was where He was leading our family.

Now, looking back on all the Lord has done since we arrived in 2018, the answer to our long-prayed question has become wonderfully clear. The church is now self-supporting, self-governing, and actively reaching others with the gospel. Believers are growing in their faith, serving joyfully, and taking genuine ownership of the ministry. **What began as a small home Bible study in 2018 has become a healthy, functioning local church.** For this reason, we believe the Lord is leading us into a new phase of ministry.

Over the coming months, we will fully transition pastoral leadership to Daniel. We'll remain involved in a support role until the end of June, after which the primary responsibility will rest with him. This is both a joyful and bittersweet time for us, yet it fulfills the very goal of church planting: **to work ourselves out of a job** so the work continues under faithful local leadership (2 Timothy 2:2). When I spoke with Daniel about becoming pastor, his response was simple and confident: **"I am well trained. I am ready to take on the responsibility."** We couldn't have asked for anything more.

At the same time, **Tricia and I have been asked to lead a newer church plant in Montevideo** while a missionary is away on furlough. The Lord has graciously opened the door for us to relocate there in July for six months. During this time, we'll also prayerfully explore future ministry opportunities in the capital and in areas to the east and north.

The timing has been hard to ignore. The church in Salto is now established and thriving, our apartment lease is ending, and Tricia needs medical care that is more readily available in Montevideo. On top of that, we had already planned a furlough beginning early 2027. **These factors clearly point to this next step, and we see the Lord's hand in bringing it all together.**

I've also spoken with our sending church pastor regarding this transition. He's in full agreement that the time is right, and we're grateful for his counsel and confirmation.

The need across Uruguay remains great. We're prayerfully seeking where the Lord would have us serve next and are asking Him to once again make His will unmistakably clear for us to follow. **Please join us in praying for direction in this new season of life and ministry.**

Yours for Uruguay,
Marco & Tricia Paulichen

