

# southern SENTINEL

of Gospel Mission of South America

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## Abundantly Above All That We Ask

by Priscilla Goossen

“Why bring all the desks here?” I questioned my husband as I arranged the twenty-one desks that he and Pastor Pedro unloaded from the truck. “I know they all belong to the Bible institute, but I am sure Pastor Juan Claudio would appreciate being able to continue using some of them for their Sunday School classes until he is able to get something else. I doubt we will need more than a dozen of them for the Bible institute.” After twenty-five years of meeting in the basement of the Monte Grande Bible Center Church, the Bible institute was being moved to Temperley due to dwindling enrollment. After much prayer it was decided to transfer the institute to this area, which is centrally located for public transportation, in hopes of encouraging more students to enroll.

The Lord answered our prayers.

Classes began on March 23 and are being held four nights a week in the large room of the upstairs apartment at the mission center where we live. This year we have an enrollment of thirty-two students with a representation from all seven of our metro Buenos Aires churches. Contrary to the last three years when we had to cancel classes for lack of students, this year we are teaching all twelve of the subjects offered.

Some of the classes are small, but Pastor Colby Holmes’ class on Spiritual Life has drawn twenty-five students. We have needed to supplement with a few chairs due to the lack of desks and space for them. Yes, the Lord truly has answered our prayers abundantly.

Not only are we encouraged by an increased enrollment, but also by the enthusiasm of the student body. We know that the day will come when some of the students will feel overwhelmed with their studies; the cold winter weather and rains may discourage them. That is why we are counting on you. Please pray for our students to be faithful in their studies. Pray for the professors, all pastors in our local churches, to prepare themselves well for their teaching sessions. And praise the Lord with us for the great things He will accomplish this year in our Bible institute.



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# Blessings & Challenges at the Southern Bible Institute

by Daryl Thompson

After nearly three decades away from Bible institute ministry, it has been a challenge for us to return this year to direct and teach in our Bible Centers' southern institute, located in Temuco (Chile). The 2009 school year got off to a good start in March with ten full time students and five part time students. The first year students attend classes for three hours in the evening while the rest study in the morning.

In addition to their studies, the students have practical service assignments in local churches twice a month. The men may teach an adult Sunday school class as well as speak in the preaching service. The ladies teach Sunday school classes and help in women's meetings. Sometimes traveling distances of two hours to the churches where they serve, many students make time on Saturdays to do visitation as well.

On the fourth Sunday of each month we all go together to visit one of the local churches of our Bible Centers fellowship to promote the Bible institute. Our twofold purpose is to strengthen the relationship with area churches and to see other potential students apply to study and prepare for the Lord's service.

The majority of our teachers are pastors from the Temuco churches. Another drives in from Villarrica, over an hour away. All of them take time out of their busy schedules to help prepare future servants.

Recently we've been the recipients of some of the churches' thanksgiving services. Country people give offerings of potatoes and wheat (exchanged later for

flour), chestnuts, piñones (nuts from the Araucanian pine tree), and other groceries. Many of these items have been distributed to the students and teachers. One student, who had been without a job since last November, was overwhelmed with joy when he was able to take his sacks of flour and potatoes home.

Each year the Bible institute sponsors a seminar for our Christian leaders. This fall (April 24-25) the president of our Bible Centers fellowship, Pastor Miguel Mondaca, taught three sessions on the ecumenical movement and the church. We are thankful for the good attendance and trust that the Lord would press home His Word and help us to stay true to Him regardless of what we must face.

A "Bible Institute Day" is being planned for June 20th. Pastors, church leaders, and youth leaders will be invited to a dinner followed by a challenge to encourage our people to train for the Lord's service.

Would you pray that God would send more young people to study at our Bible institute? There is a great lack of pastors. Just this week we received a call for assistance from a pastor serving in two churches. We visited another church that had not had a pastoral visit in months. Another big challenge is finding the right Chilean brother to train for the position of Bible institute director. We pray that the Lord would provide someone to carry this important ministry on into the future.

## Equipping the Saints

by Cristina Goossen

We started a new teaching ministry in March of this year. Our main objective is to equip the believers to do the work of the ministry in an effective way. To begin we offered three classes of two hours each week during nine weeks. The first segment just finished and this semester we are offering five classes. Since Tim cannot prepare so many classes, he teaches two at a time, and for the rest we are using video classes prepared by other Bible institutes. Five students completed classes in the first segment and all gave witness of the blessing the classes have been to their lives. Even though two of the students are taking fewer classes this time, four new students were added to the group for this semester, which brings joy to our hearts.

### Please pray that:

- The students might continue studying diligently.
- They might apply what they learn to their lives and in their ministries.
- The Lord would provide funds to continue purchasing the necessary class materials.
- Tim might have the time to prepare his classes in the midst of his other responsibilities in the church.

# Equipping the Workers

by Terry Thompson

GMSA missionaries began training nationals for the ministry of the Gospel more than seventy years ago, following the Biblical pattern found in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Leadership development remains a central part of our current purpose statement and our practice as evidenced by the numerous missionaries dedicating time and energy to train men and women in Bible schools and local churches.



In 2007, GMSA began a new training endeavor by providing post-graduate training for some sixty-five active pastors and missionaries serving in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay. This October, Mr. Bruce Burkholder and Mr. Bob Metzke will teach these men in Paysandú, Uruguay. Our hope and prayer is that this fundamental Biblical training will have an extended ripple effect through the pulpits across the Southern Cone of South America, strengthening the believers' faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their confidence in God's Word. Please pray!

# Planting A Central Church

by Diane Steward

Church planting was always John Prado's greatest desire even from the time he began his ministry in Fray Bentos, Uruguay, more than 35 years ago. More recently, he was led of the Lord to visit the 25+ towns of the Elqui Valley, 70 kilometers from the coastal city of Coquimbo (Chile) where he lived and ministered. While pastoring a church from 2006 to 2008, he traveled out with a group of men to evangelize whenever he was able.

On August 20, 2008, John was ushered into the presence of the Lord. His wife, Helen, organized a team of three men and two women, headed by Jonathan Lagos. They targeted Vicuña, a town of 10,000 people, as the central place in the valley. Those who made decisions for the Lord in other towns could then be guided to attend services in Vicuña.

The Elqui Valley church planting team passed out tracts, Bibles, and Scripture calendars in homes and in the town plaza for many weeks. Eventually they found a community center to rent. On April 4, 2009, a year's contract was signed and the new meeting place was dedicated to the Lord with 17 people present.

Since then, new folks have been attending the Friday evening Bible study as well as the Sunday children's club and preaching service. Three adults and five children have accepted the Lord Jesus as their

Savior. Church planting means lots of footwork, door-to-door calling, and--most of all--much prayer. We praise the Lord for the exciting response to this new work in the Elqui Valley area and for the openness to the gospel. Helen is also thankful for the unified team that is working with her and for the sister churches from Coquimbo that will be helping.



Please join Helen in praying for a new missionary to be challenged to continue the church plant in Vicuña and also for a better meeting place to be available eventually. "Our goal is a Christ-centered church in the center of the Elqui Valley--for God's glory!" "Day by day continuing with one mind... with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46.47).

*"Our purpose is to glorify God by serving the sending churches as we help their missionaries establish reproducing churches in Latin America through evangelism, discipleship and leadership development."*

## Uruguay Emphasis

*by Andrew Thompson*

The ministry in Salto is the northernmost in Uruguay. Please pray for this congregation that is currently being ministered to on an interim basis by missionaries Andrew & Kolette Thompson.



- Pray that the lay leadership of the congregation would be officially recognized and further equipped for effective ministry.
- Pray that the property next to where the congregation meets could be purchased (since the current property is only 21 feet wide).
- Please pray that as the congregation's leaders model evangelism, all members would participate in vital evangelistic outreach.

### Want to get involved?

For ways that you could get involved visit us at [www.gmsa.org/involved](http://www.gmsa.org/involved) or e-mail us at [gmsausa@gmsa.org](mailto:gmsausa@gmsa.org)