

# southern SENTINEL

of Gospel Mission of South America

Issue

05

January  
2010

## A BAKERY BECOMES A "HOUSE OF BREAD"

by Jonathan Rea

"We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks!" (Ps. 75:1). After months of praying and looking for a possible building for us to rent for a church, the Lord has given us the best place available--in the best location of the Monteverde development (Santiago, Chile). It is the only property like it in the entire neighborhood! When we first saw this two-story house in the center of Monteverde, we knew it was ideal for our needs but thought it might be too expensive. However, the agent was willing for it to be used as a place of worship and in August we took a step of faith in signing a year's rental contract. God's ways and timing are perfect.



The house also has a bakery attached at the side which we planned to renovate for use as our main hall. In the intervening months we used the living room of the house as our meeting place. As soon as we moved into the new facilities, attendance increased. New contacts and neighbors--especially children--visit regularly. We now have separate rooms for each Sunday school class, and the purchase of new chairs and tables has been a benefit as well.



On Friday evenings our Bible Club "Téknon" continues to flourish and encourage us. We are thankful for the growing attendance and the

faithfulness of some of the children since the club began in March. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this ministry, for spiritual growth in the believers, and salvation for others.

Ladies' meetings were started in September. As the summer approaches, Carolina has also initiated a novel kind of outreach called "Walk 4 Life." Neighborhood women gather to walk together for 45 minutes each Tuesday night and then return to the church for a healthy treat and short devotional. This evangelistic activity has been well received in Monteverde.

While we rejoice in God's provision of these new, more suitable premises, we are also aware of opposition and challenges. The

*continued...*

## This Issue:

- "House of Bread" - Pg. 1
- Taste of Missions - Pg. 2
- Trials and Blessings - Pg. 3
- Power of the Gospel - Pg. 4

## Info:

1401 SW 21 Ave.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
Phone: 954.587.2975  
gmsausa@gmsa.org  
www.gmsa.org

"Woodlands" 43 Beach Road  
Fleetwood, Lancs FY7 8PS  
United Kingdom

P O Box 150  
St Charles, Ontario, POM 2W0

Canada

rental costs are a big commitment for such a small group. One key family has left our fellowship to go elsewhere, and there are other highs and lows. The enemy is actively trying to divide, disturb, and distract the work of God. In spite of this, we are conscious that the work is the Lord's and no one can destroy it. Thank you for praying for the spiritual growth and unity of the group and for the salvation of precious souls in the neighborhood.

The renovations on our main hall were completed a few weeks ago, and we have been able to use the beautiful new meeting place for services since the beginning of November. It will hold around 60-70 people. We are so thankful to friends back home whose financial support meant that we could fund this necessary project. I praise the Lord for the transformation of the former bakery into a place of worship, a true "house of bread" that offers nourishment for the soul!

## A Full Taste of Missions

by Bethany Heckman

This past year, I have had the privilege of experiencing a taste of missions by staying and ministering with many different GMSA missionaries. My year in the southern cone of South America was full of variety and I am so grateful to God for allowing me this experience. I was able to visit all three countries in which the GMSA works: Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. I saw camp, church planting, and Bible institute ministries. I lived with single ladies and with families and got their perspectives of ministry. Each missionary and ministry had its own unique flavor and added to my view of missions.



The missionaries I stayed with during my year in South America were Dan and Liz Thompson in Licán Ray, Chile; Lois Kenney and Loida McAllister in Chivilcoy, Argentina; Tim and Cristina Goossen in Gualaguaychú, Argentina; Dan and Becca Vallette in Paysandú, Uruguay; and Andy and Kolette Thompson in Salto, Uruguay. In addition to these, I met and



talked with many other missionaries in their homes, at mission conference, and at camps. It was a blessing to meet all of them.

The ministries in which I was involved were cleaning projects for homes, churches, and

camp, babysitting missionary children, helping with homeschooling, playing the piano and singing special music, visitation, literature assembly, and participating in young people's groups. What I liked best about my short term was accompanying the missionaries on their visits to the believers' homes. Sometimes I visited them by myself. Many of the believers have unbelieving family members, which presents them with both an opportunity and a challenge to be living testimonies of Christ before them.



My life has been blessed and changed this past year. I give God thanks for the opportunity to have served with many missionaries from gospel Mission of South America and to have met many dear people in all the churches I visited. My life will not be the same, and I trust that He will continue to lead me as He always does for His children. If you feel God is leading you to take a missions trip, follow Him as He opens and closes doors. In His timing, He completes what He starts in our lives. To God be the glory for His faithfulness in taking our next to nothing and making something of lasting fruit for His eternal glory.

*“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”*

*I Corinthians 15:57-58*

# God's Purposes in Fire & Flood

by Terry Thompson

Although we were surprised to hear that a November 2 fire had destroyed the local church parsonage in Dalcahue, Chile, we were thankful to God that Pastor Rafael Arroyo and his family were not injured. Even though they lost their personal goods, emails received since the fire demonstrate their confidence that God is using this affliction to accomplish His purposes in the lives of His people. The tragedy of the fire has opened doors for Pastor Rafael to share the gospel with local authorities and even elected officials.



The fire-gutted parsonage is being dismantled carefully, saving any lumber that is still useable in view of building a more solid parsonage for the ministry of the gospel in the Chiloé Islands. Local churches across Chile, Uruguay and Argentina have sent generous gifts to help the Arroyo family. Brothers and sisters in Great Britain and Mexico have also participated.

Meanwhile, November rains have caused the Uruguay River to rise more than thirty feet above normal, displacing many people who live near the river and flooding several cabins at the Bible camp where the Dan Vallette family ministers. While flooding is common along the Uruguay River, this one may break records that have stood since the 1950's. The Vallettes are thankful for youth from the local church and visitors from the USA who are helping them move bunks and mattresses from the cabins to higher ground. The extensive clean-up work will follow once the water recedes.



Our prayer is that our sovereign God will be glorified in both this fire and this flood and that His purposes may be fulfilled.

# International Pastors' Conference

by Andy Thompson

This year's International Pastors' Conference began in earnest on October 27th. By that Tuesday morning the remainder of the pastors flying in from Chile had arrived and the speakers were introducing themselves. The men who gathered together at the UCB campground in Paysandú, Uruguay, had been looking forward to the occasion for some time, and excitement was in the air. Many of the pastors had never visited Uruguay before, let alone flown on an airplane.



More than seventy pastors and missionaries from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay gathered for continuing education seminars and encouraging fellowship. Speaker Bruce Burkholder gave a hermeneutics seminar using the book of Philemon as a case study, and speaker Bob Metz shared a Biblical Philosophy of Ministry seminar. Both speakers were a tremendous blessing through their teaching and their lives.

The evening meetings were divided into opportunities for sharing testimonies, singing, and prayer. The men enjoyed an afternoon break at a nearby hot springs complex as well as the chance to meet or get reacquainted with co-workers during mealtimes and free time between sessions. The Lord truly blessed this special occasion set apart for training and mutual edification.



After having already celebrated pastors' conferences in Argentina and Chile, these meetings bring a three-year cycle to a close. After a one-year hiatus, the men hope to begin another continuing education cycle in 2011.

## The Power of the Gospel

*by Cristina Goossen*

Miguel was a man who wanted nothing to do with the gospel. He had ruined his life and his relationship with his family by abandoning them and later seeking restoration repeatedly. His wife was tired of his verbal abuse, and one of his daughters did not want to see him any more.

Three years ago, one of his daughters married in our church. But even though he approved of the marriage, he refused to attend the ceremony because of his disdain for darkening the doorway of the church. That night at a small reception at the bride and groom's home, we met Miguel. After that, Tim visited him several times to share the gospel. He was always kind and said he would listen out of respect, but he didn't

believe in those things. In February, after a family crisis, Miguel sought the Lord and received Christ as Savior. One of the first things he did was to ask forgiveness of Tim for rejecting the message he had heard so often.

His life changed immediately. He began attending all services at church and wants to serve the Lord where he can.

Now he is preparing for baptism. His greatest desire is to recuperate his family and for them to come to know Christ also. But it won't be an easy road because he made many promises to change and broke them all before he was saved. His family no



longer believes him. He is praying for his family and is already seeing that God answers prayer. But he needs support. Would you help us pray for Miguel that he would continue to grow, that his family would come to know Christ, and that their home would be restored?



### 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)