

September 3, 2010

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Today is my first day back in the office after our trip to Uruguay and I wanted to give you an initial report right away because of your involvement in supporting this project.

Duane Burris and I flew to Montevideo, Uruguay on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>. It is winter in Uruguay and it definitely felt like it. After an overnight flight we and our suitcases were crammed into a sub-compact car, driven



by our missionary, Tim Stuck, and already occupied by Tim, his ministry partner, Job, and their two girls. We took a short 45 minute drive to a Baptist camp outside Montevideo where the Keystone training for Uruguay was already in progress. There we found many Uruguayans as well as people from Argentina, Chili, Columbia, Ecuador, some Germans and a Jewish man from Uruguay. They were gathered to receive the Keystone discipleship training. German Cob and Nat Brown were teaching and overseeing the process respectively. I joined the teaching team for the second week and preached a few times as well. Duane did some preaching and led in a symposium on the subject of implementing discipleship in your existing church. Here are some highlights from our trip.

1. God did many miracles to bring this group together. Some of these leaders from various countries had literally never heard of this discipleship training until just days before they arrived to take it. God truly picked the team, member by member!
2. Besides the many countries represented, the diversity included both men and women and ages ranging from 17 to 82...each one drawn by the unseen hand of God.
3. The presence of God was evident throughout our time together with much spontaneous praying, many tears shed and spiritual breakthroughs taking place in the lives of those who were attending. Prayers were offered for situations taking place back at home in their respective countries with prayer results reported to us while we were still together.
4. Our time together proved while there may not be many churches in Uruguay yet, God has already given strong spiritual life to many young Christians who are fiercely dedicated to reaching their nation for Christ. One example is Francisco, an Uruguayan of Italian descent who works for the phone company. He installs phone systems in homes all over Montevideo and through his gift of evangelism has led literally hundreds of people to Christ (he has their names and addresses on paper). Francisco learned through our training time together why he felt so empty after leading these folks to Christ and doing nothing to follow up on them. He now understands that discipleship is the appropriate next step for those he has led to the Lord.



5. Ever since being challenged to reach the nation of Uruguay, people have reiterated to us how extremely resistant the people of Uruguay were to anything spiritual. But the Lord went out of His way to make clear to us during our time together, that while these people may indeed be resistant to attending traditional churches, their spiritual hunger is real. One of the major ways that God exemplified this was through an interesting miracle that He did. An Ecuadorian pastor, named Fernando, lost his wallet with his driver's license in it. (In Ecuador, it is extremely difficult to obtain a license and if you lose yours, it can take hours and hours of work and up to two years of waiting before they grant you a new one.) Fernando was very distraught and asked the group to pray that God would help him to find his wallet. Two days later it turned up, sealed in a



plastic bag with his clothing. He and other members of his group went through every pocket of his clothing six times (literally six times) before sending his clothing away to be cleaned. When it returned from the local village there was his wallet inside the sealed plastic bag. Fernando was far across the soccer field searching for his wallet with the camp caretaker named Carlos (a non-believer who had been hired on an interim basis at the camp). When Fernando heard, "Your wallet's been found!" he was so excited, he grabbed Carlos in a bear hug and then said to him, "You're lost too, Carlos, and the Lord wants you to be found. Would



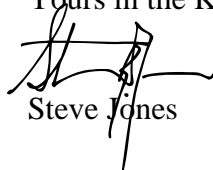
you like to receive Christ and come home to Him?" Carlos immediately answered, "Yes, I would." And then and there, they talked. Fernando explained the gospel and Carlos prayed to receive Christ. Carlos had not known any of us for more than a couple of days, but this Uruguayan had a heart readied by the Holy Spirit to come into the Kingdom. (By the way, Fernando's wallet was perfectly dry and nothing in it had gone through the wash.)

On our final evening together, Carlos joined us at the head table and for the first time in his life, received communion with his brand new brothers and sisters in Christ. Francisco, the evangelist, will be following up to disciple him.

6. There are many other stories of God's working too numerous to tell, but I will close this letter with a great big THANK YOU to all of you who took part in making this training a reality.

If you and your church have not yet taken an offering in support of our Uruguay outreach, I encourage you to do so as we lay plans now for next year's training with even more Uruguayan Christians. Well, done good and faithful servants. Enter into the joy of the Lord. I am...

Yours in the King's service,

  
Steve Jones

