

together | everywhere

Together with all those everywhere who
call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 1:2

No Advertising Needed

by Paul Olver, Latin America

“How can we reach the children in our neighborhood?” That was the question and prayer of Maria Elena Salas de Guerrero, pastor of the Carmen de Areco FMC in Argentina. Then she had an idea. The church owns property across the street where they hope to build a school one day. What about temporarily installing several large above-ground pools? Men from the church responded to the vision and carried it out. They ran water lines and even put in a couple of simple outdoor showers.

No advertising needed! Kids started coming by to ask if they could use the pools. It was hot; the summer was long. Although there are some swimming pools in the town, families in this neighborhood couldn't afford to pay the fees. Pastora Maria Elena said they could use the pools – as long as they took her to meet their parents first.

The number of neighborhood kids coming to the pools grew larger. The church youth group organized themselves to supervise. In fact, they started a day camp with the *Jumeles* (**Ju**ventud **Me**todistas **Li**bres or Free Methodist Youth) eagerly serving as counselors. Some 60 children participated.

On the last day of the camp the *Jumeles* presented the good news of Jesus using drama and dance. The choice was clear – to follow Jesus and live in the light or to give in to the evil one and live in darkness. Many of the children chose to follow Jesus, with tears streaming down their faces. The next time the church doors were open the neighborhood children were there. And they haven't stopped coming to church since – sitting in the very front row and joining in worshipping Jesus.

We visited the Carmen de Areco church just a few weeks after the swim camp. We met several mothers who were brought to church by their children. Children who came to church and met Christ because Pastora Maria Elena asked the question: “How do we reach the kids in our neighborhood?” And because people in the church were willing to do a crazy thing like putting swimming pools on their vacant lot. And because the *Jumeles* were willing to get involved.

Oh, they also used the swimming pools for the latest baptisms at Carmen de Areco FMC.

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