

To Our Friends and Family in Christ,

The prayer that Jesus taught in Luke 9:35 was, *“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”* God’s mission needs faithful workers. There is good news in South America! In the small country of Uruguay, God is answering our prayers. We are thankful that God has sent us as Free Methodist workers to the country of Uruguay. We are also thankful that we have witnessed the faithfulness of two special Pastors, husband and wife, **Pastor Sebastian and Pastor Vanessa.**



Almost 5 years ago they were assigned to a church that needed to be rebuilt from zero. In these five years, they have sacrificed much to dedicate their life to God’s work in the city of Durazno, Uruguay. They have multiplied their congregation and are currently shepherding a multi-generational flock of 150 people. To provide for their family, Pastor Sebastian sells socks on the street in the city. This type of employment gives him more flexible hours to accommodate his pastoral ministry, but economically it has meant great sacrifices for their family. For example, the family of four lives in a **300 square foot Sunday School** room above the sanctuary. They eat, cook, read, study, prepare sermons, counsel, disciple, play and sleep in that tiny space. They have been doing that for more time than they have been pastors, six years.

We believe that Durazno is one of the two key cities to reach Uruguay. While the capital, Montevideo, is the cultural capital of the country, Durazno is the heart of Uruguay. It represents the heart of the people living in the interior of the country. Geographically it is in the very center

and very strategic in terms of reaching the country with the Gospel. We are convinced that when already effective leaders are healthy and equipped, their effectiveness multiplies. Pastor Sebastian and Vanessa are effective leaders who need more space for their family and church to



grow.

A project has been initiated to have a parsonage built for them. It has been a joy to see the first part of the project, the foundation and sanitation system, led, contracted and carried out by Pastors Sebastian and Vanesa. With funds from generous donors, they took the initiative to hire a local builder who is part of the church, to start the foundation for the house. With those funds, the builder was also able to hire a few men. The pastors were among a group of volunteers who helped dig, shovel gravel, make cement and pour the base.

The next part of the project is the exterior of the house: the walls, windows, doors and roof. An Uruguayan construction company, composed of a local pastor and other Christian men, has given us a quote of **\$15,000** to build the *exterior of the house* (the walls, roof, windows and doors). The team is very experienced and is committed to completing their part in a week's time.

Often projects like this are funded and carried out by a short-term mission team. That being said, we have seen the initial donations for this project provide jobs for local workers in Durazno and have seen the overflowing joy of the volunteers from Pastor Sebastian and Vanessa's church as

they participate in building a house for their pastors. For the next part of the project, we would



love to see that joy and dignity continue.

Instead of inviting teams to come and build this house, we are inviting churches and members to participate through generosity. We are inviting churches and members to use their finances to enable local leaders, to provide jobs for experienced workers, and to give the members of our sister church the joy of participating in a blessing for their pastors. The goal for the building of the exterior is between May and August of 2018.

Would you consider using your resources to create a ripple effect in Durazno? Would you provide a house for pastors, employment for nationals, and joy and pride to the members of a sister church? The harvest is great, and the workers are few. Let's empower workers so they can send out more workers into the harvest fields.

DONATIONS TOWARD THE \$15,000 GOAL FOR THE EXTERIOR OF THE PASTORAL HOUSE CAN BE RECEIVED HERE:

<https://give.fmcusa.org/donation/durazno-parsonage-fund-uruguay>

With you in the harvest,
Michael and Andrea Green
VISA Missionaries (Montevideo, Uruguay)