

# Reimer's E-Digest

June 20, 2018

## The Coals are Heating Up!

In our last RED we highlighted how God showed us that there were still “warm embers” among the believers in Maldonado. We didn’t have much time in our two-week visit to minister to these dear people but hoped that our visit could bring them back together and help ignite the beginnings of a church. We asked for your prayers and God has since been amazing us with evidence that the “coals are heating up” as they spend more time together.

Andre (the Bible school student) has done a great job in nurturing this group and allowing them to discover God’s truth and even have a part in leading the bi-weekly Bible studies.

This last week, it was Lu’s turn to find a Bible passage to share with the group. She was very nervous about how she would do this but she knew she wanted to read the passage about Jesus calming the storm. She called Carolyn often to get assurance that she was understanding the passage correctly and she wanted help finding a “souvenir” phrase that she could prepare to give each one as a reminder of the lesson. (Thankfully we are only two time zones apart!) Lu called again after the Bible study to tell Carolyn how well it had gone and how the passage had perfectly met the needs of several. What a blessing to affirm Lu and remind her that God had used HER to choose the message He knew everyone needed! Lu even shared the passage with Miles who we have asked prayer for often. Miles doesn’t attend this group and often reminds us that he doesn’t believe like we do, though we know God is working in his life!



*Andre, Juan Carlos & Graciela, Valeria & Martin  
(Lu took the picture)*



We have also had contact through Facebook with the young Martin. Although he hasn’t started attending the Bible study, he is reading the Bible and the discipleship book we left. (Unfortunately, he found spelling errors in it!) When Carolyn asked about his girlfriend he said, “As I was praying I realized that she wasn’t the one God has for me.” She was a nice girl, but definitely not a believer, so we are praying that Martin finds a girl that shares his faith.

## Avant Banquets

The banquets were well attended in Winkler and Winnipeg with over 300 attending between the two. Days before these events Jean Barsness called and said with a very weak voice that her congestion was so bad she might not be able to come. Then I also got word from our president, Scott Holbrook, that if his wife Ruth's lung biopsy went bad, he would have to cancel. In the end God made it possible for both of these servants to minister as "clay vessels" allowing God to be glorified. Jean eloquently described what missions was like since our founding in 1892 and although so



much has changed, total surrender to God's lordship is still necessary for missionaries today.



Scott Holbrook shared how we have reached many of our goals to plant reproducing churches in more countries than ever before and yet we must continue to pray the Lord of the harvest to send more workers. Soon after Scott returned from the banquets he communicated that Ruth received the confirmation that her lung cancer is advanced and chemotherapy will not be pursued.

### Praise the Lord...

- God isn't done with the small group in Maldonado. He continues to build His church.
- Jake and Anita Derksen, along with their six children, deployed for their first term in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Two members of our Avant leadership arrived days later to bring the whole field together and also meet specifically with the three families ministering to the Old Colony Mennonites.
- In spite of health problems, the banquets were held as scheduled, and many were blessed.

### Pray with us...

- that young Martin will call Andre and have the desire to attend the Bible Studies and hopefully act as a bridge to bring more youth in or receive the support to start a meeting with "La Roca" youth.
- for Ruth, Scott, and their family as they walk this challenging road. Ruth would like to attend two of Avant's regional conferences in Germany and Bosnia in July.
- as I try to fill the accountant role at Avant before fall. Susan Warne has done a wonderful job and yet would like to retire by the end of 2018. We have someone we are interviewing but if you know of someone who has a heart for missions and a head for numbers (CPA), let me know.

Walking by faith,

Mike & Carolyn Reimer

Devan, Derek (& Kirsten), Justin, Carlton, Katrina