

# Valdez Argentina Report



December '11

## New Births During Furlough

While we were gone on furlough, there were two baptisms in the Caballito congregation.

The first one was a young, Colombian woman, **Viviana Salon**. We had been studying with her and her husband, Oscar, for a number of weeks before going on furlough and they were a part of the small group that meets in our home. Oscar has also been studying English with Daniel McGraw; and we pray that he will soon decide to commit his life to Christ as well. This is the family we asked you all to pray for in our presentation during furlough. We rejoice that He has given the increase.



Jonathan baptizing Viviana

**Gustavo López** was the second baptism. He studied with our co-worker, Joel Banks. Please pray that he will continue to grow spiritually in his new walk with the Lord.



Oscar and Viviana with their children



Gustavo López being baptized by Thomas Banks

This has been a tremendous year for new births into the Kingdom and it has truly been a team effort. Including the December baptism, there have been 25 new births this past year. Please pray that He will give us wisdom and diligence to nurture these new babes in Christ.

In December after we returned from furlough, a young woman, Jenny Paez, who had been visiting along with her mom, Any Paez, was baptized as well. Our co-worker, Joel Banks, has studied with both of them and our daughter, Marisa, has worked hard to encourage them both as well.



*Joel Banks baptizing Jenny Paez*

## **Teachers' Appreciation Dinner**

The Loperas hosted the yearly Teachers' Appreciation Dinner at their home the evening after we arrived back from furlough.



*Dario and Sonia Lopera hosted the dinner*



*Some of those who taught in classes this year*

This year Caballito has been blessed with a number of people, young and old, who have collaborated in the teaching and edification of the Body. We enjoyed an Argentine barbecue and a special evening of fellowship

together.



## Hearts United Women's Evening

Every year on the second Saturday of December, we have our year end special day to close out the activities of the women's ministry group. It is a time for the women in the Caballito congregation to invite friends to join us in closing out a year of fellowship and ministry together. Sonia and Laura both work very hard in planning this event. This year we decided to have a formal evening dinner



Rosalina, church secretary and Febronia-gift exchange.

Each sister had a "secret sister" and we wrote notes of encouragement to each other during the month of November. During the evening, we had a gift exchange between "secret sisters."



*Group picture of ladies who attended "Hearts United"*

Luciana Leon, a Peruvian sister who has been studying in an exchange program for the past two years in Buenos Aires gave a talk on organizing our priorities.



*Singing waiters-our young men serving others*

Our young men not only helped to heat and serve the food for the dinner, but they also sang some special songs to close out the evening's entertainment. It was a special time of fellowship and sharing.

## Children's Program

On December 18<sup>th</sup> after worship services, we had a drama presentation by the children's Bible classes and the chorus sang a couple of songs with them.



*Acting out the story of finding the book of the Law in the ruins of the temple*



*Preadolescent class's drama presentation*

The teachers worked hard to help the children memorize their parts and learn Bible verses. They did a great job. As always, we are thankful for Jonathan Hanegan's leadership with the chorus and musical part of the program. Maria Laura's students also sang a song in Japanese.



*Estela Russo with younger children's class*



*Maria Laura and her students singing a song in Japanese*

## Good-bye to Luciana!

Luciana Leon has been a special addition to the Caballito family as she studied here in Buenos Aires the past two years. She played an active part in our teaching program for children, in our ladies'

ministries, in the young adult programs and numerous other things in the church. She finished her university studies here and it was time to say "good-bye!" These are some photos of the going away party. We will miss her sorely!



They have finished their studies in the university here and they needed to return to their home in Colombia. There they have connected with the church and are doing well in spite of the adjustments such a move involves. They left a hole in our small group and we will miss them at Caballito. Please pray for their transition into a new congregation and that they will continue to grow spiritually.



*"Good-bye!" to Luciana*

### **"Good-bye to Jaime and Carmen at Married Couples' Meeting!"**

Earlier this year, Jaime and Carmen, a Colombian couple, were baptized in Caballito earlier this year. In December, we all had to say good-bye to them at our final Married couples' Meeting of the year.



*Carmen and Jaime at Married couples' meeting*

## **End of the Year for Our Small Groups!**

In December, we ended the year of small group meetings in the Cortabaria home and the Valdezs'. The group that met in the Valdez home this year had our last get together the second week of December. After a study and devotional, we enjoyed a meal together and a time to play games and fellowship! During the summer months, there will be a devotional group open to all meeting at the building.



*Daniel and Megan, LST interns at small group*

## **Thank You For Your Support and God Bless!**

In the first week after returning home from furlough, we received word from two congregations that they would no longer be able to send support for the work in Caballito due to financial constraints and a redirection of funds. We know that financial times are very tight worldwide and that these decisions are tough to make. Third and Central Church of Christ in

Lovington, NM and the Curtis St. Church of Christ in Salinas, CA have faithfully supported us for several years and we are so thankful for the service to His Kingdom you have provided in Argentina and to the Valdez family. Both congregations have told us that they are very happy with the work we are a part of in Buenos Aires. We are excited and anxious to see what new partnerships He will form in the coming months with the work in Caballito. He has never failed to supply our needs in every way. May God bless the Body of Christ in every place!



***Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!***

***The Valdez family***