

## 2009 Through Your Side View Mirror



**P**lease look out the side view mirror of your vehicle with us as we look out over the south Atlantic Ocean and reflect back over 2009 together. Life is so much like the tides we see every day as we look out the front window of our apartment. When our spirits are high, we are excited and overwhelmed with optimism. When our spirits are low, we fight disappointment and discouragement. This past year we have grappled to maintain an even keel as the winds have yanked on us from all sides.

**2009 began with excitement after reaching the goal of full financial support.** We thank God and YOU for your faithful support over this past year. Without your investment in God's work here, we would not be able to serve here. However, due to conditions beyond our control:

- the US dollar losing 20% of its purchasing power,
- the latest 20% increase of prices here in Uruguay...resulting in a 40% difference for us and
- the loss of over \$550 monthly support due to the death, retirement or loss of employment of faithful supporters We find ourselves learning to be thankful and finding creative ways to live on less just like you are.

**2009 began with gigantic strides in developing a new ministry team to reach an economically wealthy yet spiritually needy country.** We thank God we form a team with Bill/Linda and Matthew Parker here in Uruguay rather than being here alone. We continue patiently waiting for the arrival of the rest of our church planting team (Rebecca Zurbrick, Brad/Lindsey Bridges, Kendra Cervantes, Augusto/Vale Aniano) as the Lord provides their financial support in His time.

**2009 began with courage and bravery in flying 6,000 miles south to open a new field of ministry for CAM International in Uruguay.** What a ride! This year has been one of the most challenging years of our lives (we will both be 60 next year), but we

have no regrets! God has changed our hearts this year as we have followed Him here. He is:

- humbling us being nobodies rather than high profile ministry leaders,
- helping us see that making disciples is a major part of church planting, and
- teaching us the emptiness of strategies designed for rapid ministry results.

**Since moving here to Montevideo the middle of January, God has opened major doors of ministry here to make disciples via:**

- teaching biblical principles of conflict reconciliation to local churches, lawyers and interest groups,
- regularly receiving business contacts and neighbors into our home for meals to develop relationships,
- mentoring area pastors, younger missionaries and ministry leaders,
- influencing local business couples by helping form and lead the Uruguay Christian Chamber of Commerce,
- developing young Uruguayan leaders in Serve the City projects and
- gaining credibility by participating in a local nutritional network.

Lives have been changed in these above activities because of YOUR investment and prayers in God's work here. YOU have made a difference! THANK YOU for being an extension of God's hand in our lives and in the society of Uruguay.

The low tide hurts but is essential. Without it,

- there are no high tides,
- we are not broken so God can change us,
- we do not acknowledge our dependency and fall on our faces before God,
- we do not remember our true Source of strength.

When the tide is low and it seems like that's all there is...it is then that we must remember our identity in HIM and all we have in HIM.

As we take our eyes off of the past and look into 2010 together with our eyes focused on the LORD, let each of us be careful to *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Romans 12:12

Keep Letting GOD EnCOURAGE you as the best is yet to come,

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