

Multitudes..., multitudes..., In the Valley of Decision..” Joel 3:14

June 2004,

Dear Praying Friends,

God gave a great victory for the inauguration of the new location for the New Life Baptist Church in Balcarce.

We were hoping that we might possibly have as many as 80 people, but it was closer to 100! (Some said 90, someone else said over 100, a fellow missionary jokingly said it seemed like 190!) Two churches from Mar del Plata came, but there were about 30 local folks from Balcarce. Of course, these were our real targets. Some had already visited for other services, and this is still totally different to their “church” experience, but they are liking what they are finding.

Dr. Paul Jackson, EBM President, was scheduled to be our main preacher, but bad weather in Dallas kept him and Mrs. Jackson from arriving in Argentina until Sunday morning, and it was impossible for them to be with us that day. Dr. Jackson was to preach in Mar del Plata in the morning and for the inauguration in the afternoon. I jokingly told the folks that I had bad news and good news..., the bad news being, of course, that Dr. and Mrs. Jackson could not be with us, but the good news (?) was that they would get to hear me preach again! God gave real blessings as hearts were deeply touched, a young man came forward to make sure of his salvation, and one lady was saved the next day.

God is working in many “secondary” ways, as well. By that I mean He is also working in the hearts of folks other than just in Balcarce. A missionary friend had called from another part of the province, (Junin) saying that he was sending people from the city of Tandil, 110 kilometres (66 miles) away. (Mar del Plata is about the same distance, but in the opposite direction!) The person who would be coming is a son of a member of the church in Junin. The father is originally from Tandil but now lives in Junin and prays for family members in Tandil. The son came to our inauguration and brought 4 other people with him! This is even more exciting as our son Don R. and his family are hoping to be in Tandil in another six months to start a church there. Don R. has about 87% of their support raised, and they are getting very excited about soon being here where God has called them. (We are also excited!!) Don has had a burden for Tandil for a long time! Pray for the remainder of their support to come in soon, so that they will soon be here.

Bro. Felix Pino lived unsaved in Balcarce some 15 years ago but moved to another city for work and got saved in the other city. He and his wife have been praying for family members and for someone to start a church in Balcarce, and for this reason we invited them to come and be a part of the inauguration - but no, he is not a new pastor for the Balcarce church. We would love to have him if God would call him to Balcarce, but he is co-pastoring a church in another city in another province. My letter led some to believe that he was coming to be the new pastor, but that is not the case. Pray with us for God to call national pastors for both the church here in Mar del Plata and in Balcarce. Bro. Pino saw a car pull up during the inauguration service, and he recognized the lady who got out as the little neighbor girl who lived next door to the Pinos when they lived in Balcarce 15 years ago. She heard that they were visiting, and she knew that she could find them by coming to the church. God testimony! **Ester** lives just a few blocks from the new building and promised to be coming back.

I was able to present Christ to **Antonia**, soon to be 80, who is still grieving over a son who died of cancer years ago, but she was unable to understand, being preoccupied with her son. It was very sad. Each time I mentioned Heaven, she interrupted me to ask, "Will I see my son in Heaven?" A lady in her 60's also came forward to try to convince me that we should be resting on the 7th day! There is an Adventist church in Balcarce and this underlined the confusion that is being taught today. This dear soul was sincere. She is a neighbor just a block or so away from the church, and I am sure we will be having more opportunity to help her. Pray for this neighbor lady and others.

Pray for:

1. **Ester** and her daughter Silvana. Unsaved
2. **Antonia**, (will be 80 on June 10th) Unsaved
3. **The neighbor lady**. Unsaved
4. **Javier**, professes salvation, but confused about eternal security. I dealt with him in the invitation.
5. **Olga**. (Received Christ on Monday)
6. **Our finances**. We have invested everything that was in our account (and more!) in the preparation of the new meeting place. Our account is now in deficit!
7. **Our regular monthly support**. For many, many, months our statement has shown a \$400 deficit. We are thankful that God has met our needs, but this is an area that really does need our prayer. **Please pray for a \$400 increase in our monthly support level.**
8. **The possibility of buying the property in Balcarce**. Many of our visitors commented about the fantastic location God has given us, and on the good condition of the building. We have said this many times. Do pray with us for God's direction about the possibility of buying this building. While final costs will depend on the exchange rate at the time of actual purchase. We could probably buy the building with the empty lot next door for \$40,000. This is an excellent opportunity to invest in the future of the Lord's work in Balcarce.

Some can give..., all can pray. Do what God would have you to do...

Thanks again for praying for the inauguration service, pray with us now for the follow-up work.

Yours for souls in Argentina,
Don and Lois Harris