

NEWSLETTER

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South America

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Dear Brethren,

Nidia Prieto obeyed the gospel during the first week of December. One of our members had made the contact for us to study with Nidia eighteen months ago. Since then, we have studied the gospel of Luke and the conversions recorded in the book of Acts. She has regularly attended meetings, special classes and worship services at the building. Nidia is sixty-five years old and it appears that she carefully considered the commitment which she was making. It was a beautiful Thursday morning, the sun was shining so brightly, when we gathered together to hear Nidia confess her faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. After her birth by baptism into the family of God, we sang several hymns and prayed with her. We continue to study with Nidia and we hope that we can help her in every possible way to grow into a mature child of God. Attached is a photo of our new sister in Christ.

My companion in the work, Tom Holley has been in the States with his mother and sister who continue to have several health issues. Therefore, Tom has decided that he and his family must now move back to Mississippi in order to take care of them. He has been living in Argentina for nearly thirty years. Many in Argentina and Chile will miss him, but we are confident that the church in Starkville will benefit from Tom's knowledge and experience. We appreciate the good he has done. We are sad to see Tom, Veronica, Sewell and Elizabeth leave, but we know our loss can be another's gain.

We are in the process of buying the building where we have been meeting for over twenty years. We have been able to save nearly seventy percent of the total cost and with the help of four members, financing the rest, we can make the purchase. There is a house on the back of the property that we plan to transform into classrooms for our different age groups. When we pay back the loan (in three years and nine months), we hope to enlarge the structure where we assemble for worship services.

At the end of another year and as we begin a new one, it is good to reflect on things we have done as we contemplate what we hope to do. There were four baptisms this year for which we are very grateful. Also, I am thankful for the support you generously provided for this endeavor. It is a privilege to work with you in this great undertaking to preach the gospel in Argentina. I deeply appreciate that the Lord has brought us together for this holy purpose. May He give us another prosperous New Year for His eternal glory.

May the hand of God be with you,

Fernando Venegas P.

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