

## The Todd Family

Missionaries to

## **Argentina**

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Dear Pastor and Church, March, 2014

The text message read "Hi pastor, are you busy tomorrow? I need to come by and talk to you." It's been two years since he left the church with no explanation. We had led him to the Lord, discipled him, he felt that God was calling him to preach, he was my right arm when we were building, and one day he was gone. He wanted to talk to me about coming back to church. We have been praying for him since he left, and now we are praying that he will follow through. The struggle to stay faithful during the college years is very real here in Argentina as well. But we are thankful for God answering our prayers.

We finished out the year with our Christmas concert. It was such a blessing to have the opportunity to reach out to the community with our church choir. We had our Christmas service at church with four visitors in attendance. After that we had been invited to participate in an end of the year dinner concert at a nearby neighborhood community center. Our turn to sing was at midnight (they eat very late here!). It was such a blessing to be able to sing for the 200 in attendance that were mostly lost people. The very next night we sang for a sister church in an open air concert. We thank the Lord for the talent that he has given our church and their willingness to use it for His glory.

Our youth camps started in January and as usual they were a lot of work, but such a great blessing. During all three camps we had a total of 14 professions of faith and many decisions by the teens. I had the job of preaching the youngest group this year, 8-11 year olds. This is a fun group. While I was preaching on temptation one night I was using several items as examples. I would attach them to the end of a fishing pole and dangle it over their heads. My mistake was putting a \$100 peso bill on it to show how tempting money could be. I never expected to get mobbed in the middle of my message by about 30 or 40 kids wanting to snatch the money. It worked out in the end when I finally gained control of my audience again. It was a good illustration of how money makes people forget everything else that is important (like not attacking the preacher) just to get it. Sadly, we grownups act the same way sometimes when we forget what is important by following after the material things of this world.

This year we held our first married couples retreat. When I started announcing it the response was slow in coming. In the end we had 19 couples present for the three day retreat. We had a blast along with a fellow missionary teaching on how to strengthen your marriage. It was a great success and they left asking us to do it again in a few months.

This year, March is going to be mission's emphasis month for our church. We are looking forward to see what God will do through us as he challenges our faith to give more to missions.

We will be going to the States in a couple of months for a short furlough. Sandy is leaving Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> so she can spend more time with her dad who is recovering from an accident that he suffered. I will be leaving in April. We will be looking to raise additional support so we can continue to do ministry here in Argentina. Keep us in your prayers.

For additional information or pictures of our ministry, here are the links. May the Lord bless your faithfulness! <a href="http://mikeandsandytoddargentina.synthasite.com/">http://mikeandsandytoddargentina.synthasite.com/</a> <a href="http://mstoddargentina.blogspot.com/">http://mstoddargentina.blogspot.com/</a>

Mike and Sandy