



1 Corinthians 3:9-15 declares that believers are “God’s building,” and that God uses us to build His building (the church)! Since the building belongs to God, we should take special care to build with the right materials. In a very literal sense, our letter this month is a building update!

### **Slow and Cold**

Our work does not stop during the Uruguayan winter, but it does slow down a little. Our city of Colonia is surrounded by the Rio de la Plata that pushes cold, wet wind upon poorly insulated homes and buildings. Colds, coughs, and flus are the norm. Micki often spoils us with healthy, delicious meals, but even so, we often spend a month or more being sick. We appreciate your prayers for Owen, who has had a smattering of different illnesses for a few months.

### **Big, Beautiful Building**

It seems like all the news outlets in the United States are buzzing about Trump’s “big, beautiful bill”. In Colonia, we are buzzing about the “big, beautiful building” that the Lord has blessed us with for ministry. It was in rough condition when we bought it in 2017. But, after eight years of prayer, work, and collaboration with people here and many of you, it is really taking shape. This year we replaced the old, deformed front doors with new iron ones; the new women’s bathroom should be ready by August; after that, we will finish the fellowship hall. There have been some surprises, like a giant sink hole that opened next to the bathroom (see picture below). Even so, the building is becoming a beautiful place for God’s people to meet. It is big enough for our seminary and, Lord-willing, will be the home of our future Christian school.

I have also been helping with the administration of a new building for the church in Nueva Helvecia. For years, they have been meeting in a small garage, sometimes having to turn people away for lack of space. Not any more! Their new building should be complete this year and will seat 125 people!

### **A Winter Helper**

The Lord has blessed us with a seven-week visit from Emma, a girl from our sending church who studies digital media at Maranatha Baptist University. She is working with Micki on our seminary website and helping our co-workers with their prayer card and furlough video. It has been fun for Owen to have a “big sister” and for us to have an English-speaking friend and co-worker at home. I am taking advantage of these winter days to make a few videos for our seminary YouTube channel and to write another book for Spanish speakers. You can see how that’s going by going to my author page on Amazon or by visiting our YouTube channel (El Seminario Bautista de Colonia). A lot of our videos are reaching Jehovah’s Witnesses; this week a young man told me that he will be sharing one with his girlfriend in hopes that she will be saved. Thank you for your prayers that our building materials be of the “gold, silver, and precious stones” type!

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