

ARGENTINA: JOEL BANKS

About Joel's ministry

My work with the Churches of Christ in Buenos Aires is in the area of small groups, personal follow-up, the inter-congregational Bible institute, our website outreach, and Let's Start Talking. The amount of energy and time spent on these different forms of ministry depends on immediate needs.

How do you communicate with the people you are trying to reach?

Most of the non-Christians my coworkers and I work with are met by means of the Let's Start Talking ministry, our website, and personal contacts. We stay in touch with people online, in one-on-one classes, group Bible studies, and simply spending as much time with them as possible. Small groups are a place non-Christians can feel comfortable visiting and meeting the church for the first time. However, we are limited because of the number of leaders and group hosts we have.

What do you like to do for fun?

For fun I enjoy spending time with friends, swimming, reading, and visiting different parts of this amazing city, which is actually several different cities and cultures in one. I collect coffee shops; Buenos Aires has a lot of them!

What is your future vision for this ministry?

Over the long term I see the most permanent necessities for the work here as being in two areas: preparing others in the use of small groups and the Bible institute. Both of these involve leadership training and building for the future.

What can we do to help?

As far as specific needs, there is an ever increasing demand to use internet for contacting and training people. Mass media advertising in general has been the main way we have surfaced contacts for Let's Start Talking. This is, however, something we have not been able to do very consistently because of the rampant inflation here (25%). These are challenges, however, that I have seen God overcoming through those who pray that there will be workers for the harvest, and to make it possible for them to come.

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