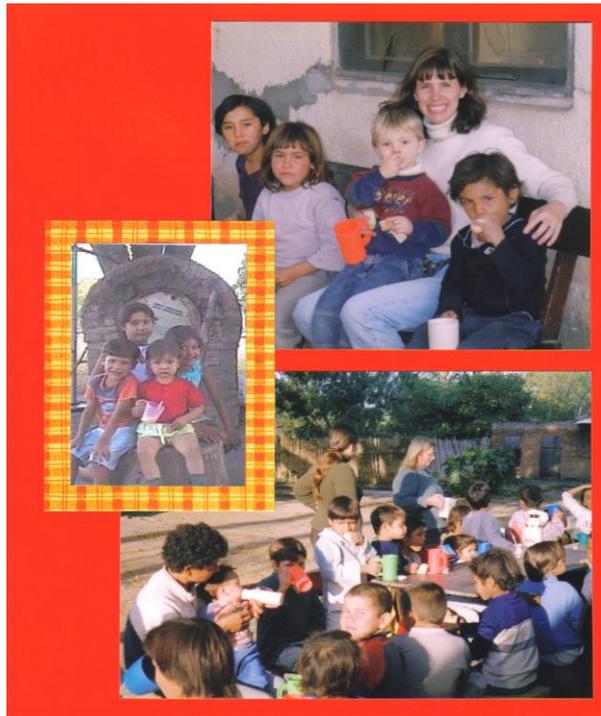


ARGENTINE ADVENTURE:

EXPLORING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES IN ARGENTINA

Global Ministries is the combined overseas mission initiative of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) and the United Church of Christ.



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Vedia, Argentina; Feb. 5, 2010

iListo, Ya! (Get ready, Go!) Welcome to Argentina

The small congregation in Vedia, Argentina, finds big ways to share the love of Christ with their community. They serve bread and milk to over 50 children each Sunday afternoon. They bake the bread in the oven pictured above, which is made out of an old barrel and homemade bricks. On February 5, 2010, this congregation lost their roof in a tornado. No one was injured and they continue to serve God faithfully. Global Ministries and Church World Service have contributed monetary aid (through your donations!) to our many partners in Argentina including Vedia.

You will find the Argentine people very welcoming. They will welcome you into their homes with a kiss on each cheek and then offer you some maté to share. Maté is a traditional drink similar to tea. It consists of herba maté, which are tea leaves poured into a cup often made out of a dried gourd. Hot water (never boiled) is poured over the maté leaves, and then the cup is passed around and shared by all with a special common straw. Children do not generally drink it this way. They prefer maté cocido, which is maté cooked in a large pot. The liquid is then poured into individual cups, and sometimes milk is added. Sugar is also added, as maté is otherwise very bitter.

The Disciples of Christ Church has been present in Argentina since 1906. We currently have four congregations in the capital city of Buenos Aires as well as four in the Northern Argentine province of Chaco. Many of these churches are ecumenical churches, which means they are made up of more than one denomination. For example, the congregation named Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) is both a Disciples of Christ congregation and a United Methodist congregation. This is a great way to share our common traditions as well as learn some new ones. Do you think you would like to visit this church?

As a missionary, I was able to work with many of our churches. First, my husband Tim and I arrived in Buenos Aires at La Iglesia de los Discípulos de Cristo en Saavedra. Can you figure out what that name means? I'll give you a hint: iglesia means church in Spanish. This congregation welcomed us, and then we got right to work. Tim was the pastor there while I rode about 1½ hours by bus to Tablada, where we have another church.



Sunday school at the Disciples of Christ Church in Saavedra, Argentina



Does the Sanctuary in the Tablada church look like the sanctuary in your church?

Tablada is a town outside the big city of Buenos Aires. Did you know that Buenos Aires is the 8th largest city in the world? Tablada is an area where most of the families do not have jobs. The church here offers a place for the children to come before or after school. They get to eat lunch as well as breakfast or a snack. This will probably be the only food they have that day.

They also have an area to play their favorite sport of soccer as well as other games. They get help with their homework and a place to shower. One year we painted a mural with a beautiful rainbow. The children designed the mural and also painted it. What a great way to brighten the world!



The mural at the Tablada Church and Community Center reads *Protection for our environment, "We are fighting for a better life."*

Ideas for Rotation Centers

CRAFTS

Spinning Tops - The children at Tablada Community Center made spinning tops from used liquid glue bottle tops and discarded CDs. Paint all the CDs white on one side ahead of time. The kids can then use permanent markers or paint to decorate them. Take apart the glue top and place the CD between the pieces and reattach. Next, wind a piece of string around the white part, place a pencil or similar shaped object into the hole at the top, and pull the string. A fun game played in Argentina is called, La Dura. It's simple: the person who gets their top to spin the longest wins! It is fun to practice, and this can also be used to determine who will go first at the next game.



Look who has the winning top!

Bottle Cap Magnets - Paint the top of bottle caps a solid color; then glue a magnet inside. Children can then paint and decorate them.

We also made our own **recycled paper** as well as **puppets**. These are complex activities that are made over several days.

A favorite with the kids at the Tablada Community Center was **Stress Relief Balls**. They are fun to squeeze as well as give for gifts. To make these, you will need at least one balloon for each child, flour, small funnels (we used small plastic bottles with the bottoms cut off), dowel rods (or old pencils), and paper cups.

Here is what to do: Cover the table and floor with disposable tablecloths. (It's messy!) Stretch the balloon by blowing it up, and then let the air out. Put the mouth of the balloon over the funnel. Fill the balloon with flour via the funnel and cup. The dowel rod (or similar object) is needed to push the flour into the balloon. Once the balloon is about the size of your palm, tie it shut. Another balloon can be added over the end to make it stronger and more colorful.

Any craft made with colored paper is also fun. Argentine children loved working with "fancy" paper.

GAMES

Soccer is the all time most popular game in Argentina.

Other sports that Argentine children enjoy are rugby, handball, volleyball, and swimming. Jump rope, hand string games, tag, and hopscotch are also popular.



A large inflatable ball makes soccer friendlier

Chair Game - Each child needs a chair he/she can stand on (folding chairs are not good for this game). Chairs are placed in a circle and everyone stands on their own chair. Each child counts off so that everyone has a number. The leader then calls out two numbers and these children need to switch places by walking on the occupied chairs. The one who gets to the other person's place first wins. Nobody is out. The game continues with the leader calling out two more numbers.

Race for the Ball - Divide the children into two teams. Each team numbers off so each child has a number. The teams stand at opposite sides of the field or gym on a line or touching the wall. A ball is placed in the middle between the two teams. The leader yells out two (or more) numbers and those children run to try to be the first to the ball. They kick the ball with their feet and try to get it to their line before somebody on the other team can take it. This is also played in the United States, so many of the children may be familiar with how it is played.

To make the above games more challenging for older children, try using the Spanish names for the numbers or try colors or animals instead of numbers.

Continent Catch - Divide the children into teams. Each team represents a continent. Two teams compete, or up to 7 teams for larger groups. Each team is given a parachute (blankets or sheets are also fine), and they form a circle around it. They are then given a few inflatable or similar balls to bounce around on the parachute. They can try to see which continent can bounce the balls the highest, longest, or in a certain direction. They may also try to get share balls with another continent. Think about how many things you have that are made somewhere else. Do you think Argentine children have anything that is from the United States? (One time, somebody asked me if we had Coke in the United States. ☺)

COOKING

Look for recipes online or in cultural cookbooks.

Dulce de Leche - traditional dessert
The easiest way to make this is to boil a can of sweetened condensed milk, but you could also follow a recipe.

Media Lunas (half moons) - croissant rolls

These can be homemade or just baked at home. The Argentines eat theirs with a glossy coating of sugar on top. Sometimes they are stuffed with dulce de leche. Yum! Serve with warm tea or chocolate milk.

Churros - just like in Mexico, but filled with dulce de leche

In our neighborhood of Saavedra, there was a man on a bike selling these delicious treats every weekend morning near our house. We sometimes bought them on our way to worship.

Chimi Churri - traditional sauce for grilled meat

It's easy to make and can be sent home in small jars with each child or served at a community meal.

Empanadas - meat turnovers

These yummy stuffed creations can be filled with almost anything. Chicken, creamed spinach, onion and cheese, and creamed corn are common. The hardest part is making the dough. You may be lucky enough to have a store nearby that sells tapitas, which are frozen, or refrigerated dough circles ready-made for filling. Pizzerias in Argentina deliver these as well as pizza and calzones. They are commonly served at potlucks. No forks required! Everyone has their specialty and often find a way to mark the dough so you know who made them and/or what is inside.

Noquis - potato pasta

This is very inexpensive and often eaten at the time of the month when families are waiting for their next paycheck.



¡Buen provecho! (Enjoy your meal!)

MUSIC

Some songs/prayers used before eating:

Half speak first, other half repeat

Bendice el pan (repeat)
Que comemos hoy (repeat)
Todos unidos (repeat)
Por tu gran amor (repeat)
Amen (repeat)

Translation

Bless the bread
That we eat today
All together
By your great love
Amen

"Gracias Señor - Thank you oh Lord"

Gracias Señor, oh Gracias Señor, Gracias Señor, Amen
Thank you oh Lord, oh Thank you oh Lord, Thank you oh Lord, Amen
Aguyje ore Ru, oh Aguyje ore Ru, Aguyje ore Ru, Amen
Obrigado Senhor, oh Obrigado Senhor, Obrigado Senhor, Amen
Grazie Signore, oh Grazie Signore, Grazie Signore, Amen
Danke oh Herr, oh Danke oh Herr, Danke oh Herr, Amen
Merci Seigneur, oh Merci Seigneur, Merci Seigneur, Amen

(Spanish, English, Guarani [native Argentine language], Portuguese, Italian, German, French)

Songs sung in Argentina (in Spanish) that might be in church hymnals:

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"	#422 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"We Are Walking in the Light of God"	#442 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"We Are One in the Spirit"	#494 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"Spirit of the Living God"	#259 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"Holy, Holy, Holy"	#111 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"	#342 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"Jesus Loves Me"	#113 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
"When the Poor Ones Who Have Nothing"	#662 <i>Chalice Hymnal</i>

Also consider music about sharing, understanding, and caring for others:

"We Are the World"
"Welcome Children"
"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
"Pass It On"
"All God's Children Have a Place in the Choir"

SCIENCE

Discover God's Love

Discover Water/Glaciers - Argentina has dramatic waterfalls such as Iguazu Falls and several glaciers including Perito Moreno Glacier. Water is an abundant natural resource, so any experiment that discusses this would be appropriate.



Iguazu Falls in Northern Argentina

Discover God's Amazing Animals - Show some examples of animals from Argentina with amazing attributes: hummingbird, Plush-crested Jay, Morpho butterfly, jaguar, several species of toucan, Patagonian skunk, guanaco, puma, anteater, armadillo, capybara, caiman, sea lions, whales, and penguins are a few. What do you notice about the variety of animals? There are many different types of climates and ecosystems in Argentina because it is such a long and relatively large country. It extends from the tropical region of the far north bordering Brazil to the cold Patagonian South, which is home to the southern most city in the world, Ushuaia.



A Plush-crested Jay near Iguazu Falls

Discover Latitude and Longitude - Take a look at a map or globe. Which country and/or city is located at the same latitude as Buenos Aires, Argentina?

(Atlanta, Georgia) Being at the same latitude means these cities are the same distance from the equator. What do you think this means about weather and temperature of these areas? (They are similar depending on altitude, terrain, etc.)

In this case, the climate in Atlanta is very similar to that of Buenos Aires. It gets cold in the winter (remember that is our summer!), but generally does not snow. Find your city and figure out its latitude. Which city in Argentina might be similar? Find out what that city is like. Notice how far east South America is compared to the United States? What time do you think it is in Buenos Aires? Why? (Longitude shows 2 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time depending on daylight savings time.)

Discover Why the Seasons Are Reversed in the Southern Hemisphere - (The

tilt of the Earth as it revolves around the Sun causes one half of the globe to be closer to the sun.) What are some other countries located in the Southern Hemisphere? When is your birthday? What season is that in Argentina? Would you like to celebrate in Argentina? What would be different?

By the way...

Argentine children learn that they are American. They are South American and you are (probably) North American, but we are all Americans! ☺

Fast Facts about Argentina

Continent - South America

Capital - Buenos Aires

Population - 39, 538,000

Size in Area - 1,072,157 square miles
(2,776,889 sq km)

Comparative Size - Slightly less than
3/10 size of United States

Language - Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French



Did you know these facts about Argentina?

- ❖ Argentina is the 8th largest country in the world.
- ❖ Argentina's tallest mountain is Aconcagua at 6,960 meters high and the lowest point at -40 meters is Salinas Chicas located on the Peninsula Valdes.
- ❖ Iguazu Falls of Argentina are even higher and wider than Niagara Falls.
- ❖ The popular dance called the Tango started here.
- ❖ Argentina is very long; it has rainforests and giant waterfalls in the extreme north, rich plains to the north, which are called the Pampas, flat rolling plateaus in Patagonia which is in the south, and the rugged Andes mountains along the western boarder with Chile.
- ❖ Argentina produces a lot of sunflower seeds, lemons, soybeans, grapes, corn, tobacco, peanuts, tea, wheat, and livestock. In fact, Argentina is the third-largest producer of beef in the world.
- ❖ The unemployment rate is 20%, and 37% of Argentines live below the poverty line.
- ❖ 96.2% of Argentines (boys and girls) can read.
- ❖ In Argentina and all countries south of the equator, summer is in December, January, and February. Would you like to celebrate Christmas in summer?

Ministries:

Tablada Community Center - This center offers a safe place for children living in poverty and often situations of abuse. Two meals are provided, which will probably be all these children will eat for the day. Tutoring, a place to play, showers, and activities are also provided.

Disciples of Christ Churches - There are 7 Disciples of Christ Churches in Argentina - 4 of these are in Buenos Aires and 3 are in the northern province of Chaco. The Disciples of Christ have been present in Argentina for over 100 years! There are also several Congregational Churches that are just now beginning to have a relationship with the United States and Canada through Global Ministries.

Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo - During the "dirty war" of the 1970s, the Argentine government kidnapped and killed anyone who disagreed with the state policies. Many of these people were professors, students, and church members. In fact, our congregation called Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) was bombed during this time. Grandmothers whose children were taken and killed continue to look for their grandchildren who were kidnapped and given to people that agreed with the government policies.

ISEDET - There is an exceptional protestant seminary in Buenos Aires.

CLAI - This organization works with many denominations and has promoted ecumenical outreach throughout the country.

Go to EnchantedLearning.com or PrintableMaps.net to download a map of South America and flag from Argentina that the kids can color during family group time or craft time.

References and Helpful Websites

ActivityVillage.co.uk

This site has over 10,000 pages of free children's activities.

CWSGlobal.org

Church World Service has several videos on YouTube that could be used during assembly time or story time. They also have a lot of good information for children, older youth, and adults.

EnchantedLearning.com

This site has Spanish words and phrases that can be used to make a matching game as well as maps, flags and placemats in Spanish.

Free-Puzzles.net

Personalize a word search and/or crossword puzzle using words from VBS.

GlobalMinistries.org

Journey to India, *Journey to Congo*, and other country specific stories and information are available. There are also some great resources for special giving opportunities.

KidActivities.net

Country themes offer ideas for art, crafts, games, and snack recipes.

PBS.org/JourneytoPlanetEarth

Journey to Planet Earth is a current PBS series that dramatizes new ways of looking at the delicate relationship between people and the world they inhabit.

PrintableMaps.net

This website has fantastic maps of each continent.

[The World Fact Book](http://TheWorldFactBook)

Sponsored by the CIA, this site has facts, maps, flags, and more for all countries.