SON Team in Uruguay

By David Breidenbach

Meet Some Missionaries, November 2026

Meet SON Global Workers in Uruguay

Pastors Miguel Nuñez and Varinia Cuello are a vibrant and dynamic ministry couple and SON Global Workers dedicated to serving the people of Uruguay to make Christ known.



Varinia & Miguel at river



U R U G U A Y

Uruguay Map, public domain courtesy of PAT maps

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Their ministry context is unique, as Uruguay is identified as the most secular nation in Latin America. Uruguay has a minimal Catholic colonial history, but it has been strongly secular since the early 1900s. This has resulted in a prosperous nation that does not officially recognize Christian holidays. "Family Day" is celebrated on December 25th and "Tourism Week and Park Day" replaces Holy Week and Easter in Uruguay. This has left an entire nation without an understanding of genuine grace and sacrificial love. Without this hope in Christ, Uruguay has the 7th highest suicide rate in the world.

Originally from Chile, Pastors Miguel and Varinia served as full-time missionaries with the Lutheran Church in Brazil before moving to Montevideo in 2024 for a five-year commitment to serve in Uruguay. Yet the breadth and depth of ministry opportunities have revealed the need for a much longer commitment to serving in Uruguay and so they have developed a detailed 10+ year strategy and

implementation plan for establishing healthy and vibrant Lutheran communities of faith throughout the country.

Ministry and Partnerships

One of the many aspects of their fledgling ministry is having already established strong worship and Bible study ministries in the nearby community of Punta del Este and also in their base city of Montevideo. Additionally, a strong partnership is developing with the local YMCA, where the director actually hopes to put the "C" in YMCA back into practice!



House Church in Punta del Este

The other aspect of ministry that can have the most widespread impact is their weekly commitment to teaching on-line theology and doctrine courses for Lutheran pastors and lay-ministry workers who are serving throughout South America and in the Caribbean. This includes ministry workers in Chile, Brazil, and Cuba.

Miguel and Varinia recently shared:

> *"God places in our path young people who find no meaning in their lives and easily fall prey to anxiety and depression; expatriates arriving in a culturally different country where their own language is not spoken, leaving them feeling distressed and alone."*

Their commitment, vision, and deep love for the people of Uruguay and all of Latin America make them beacons of God's light and give powerful witness to the love of Jesus Christ.



Varinia and Miguel Presented Pastor David with an Uruguayan flag

Prayer Request

Please pray that young Uruguayans – most of whom have never heard the Gospel – would encounter Christ's love and hope, and for Miguel and Varinia as they continue their work in providing sound, biblical education for Lutheran pastors and ministry workers serving throughout Latin America.

JOIN US!

To learn how YOU can make a life-changing and eternal impact, go to: https://sonetwork.org/serve/opportunities/



Breidenbach, David

Spiritual Orphans' story speaks deeply to Pastor David Breidenbach. Raised in an agnostic household, David heard the Gospel for the first time during a Good Friday service in 1992. Touched by this experience, he quit his broadcasting career to become a Lutheran pastor. He has been Executive Director of SON since 2015.

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