

Metzgers to Argentina

Dear Pastor,

Marcelo is an all-around good guy. He doesn't steal, cheat or lie. He attends Mass faithfully every week and honors his family traditions. But Marcelo is on his way to hell because he does not know Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He is being held captive by his religion. According to OperationWorld.org, there are over 36 million Argentines just like him.

The Argentine people are not considered to be an unreached people group, yet millions remain enslaved to Catholicism, Islam and demonic cults. The chains of Catholicism are wrapped around 4 out of every 5 Argentines, and only 1 in 10 identify with any Bible believing church. This presents an overwhelming challenge in carrying out Christ's command to make disciples of all nations.

Our family is ready to face this challenge. My wife and I have seen this need firsthand because we grew up in Argentina as missionary kids. We have surrendered to God's calling to the mission field. Having completed a Missionary Internship at Cherry Street Baptist Church, we are following His specific direction in our lives to reach the Argentine people with the Gospel.

It is imperative we get to the field as soon as possible because millions of Argentines just like Marcelo may never have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Christ unless we do something. Please prayerfully consider the material in this packet. We pray you will choose to partner with us in reaching Argentina for Christ.

Thank you for your time. We would deeply appreciate the opportunity to present our call and Argentina's need to your church. I will be getting in contact with you shortly, or you can contact us at your convenience.

Sharing Christ Together,

Ben, Rachelle, Natalie, Lucas and Alenna Metzger

417-689-2932

ben@metzgerstoargentina.com



Their Cry

DESPITE THEIR VAST NATURAL RICHES, THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE SUFFER FROM DEEP SPIRITUAL POVERTY. Located in South America, Argentina is home to over 40 million people. The official language of Argentina is Spanish. Over 86 percent of the population claims Catholicism as their religion. Less than 10 percent of the population identifies with any Bible-believing church. The remaining percentage of the population is comprised of various cults, Agnosticism and Animism. Spiritual darkness holds an enormous stronghold and is gaining ground with the aggressive increase of Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, and Islam. Argentina is home to the largest Islamic center in Latin America and its previously unnoticeable Muslim presence has reached over one million and continues to grow. This is a spiritually starved country, trapped in darkness. According to Argentine Baptist Associations there are less than 800 Gospel-preaching churches in Argentina. That is fewer than one church for every 50,000 people. There is no Gospel witness in the majority of cities and towns across this vast country.



His Direction

Since our call to missions we have regularly asked God to make clear where He wanted us, and Argentina has been the resounding answer to confirm His direction in our lives. Because of our own upbringing in Argentina, we have a rare opportunity. It will not be necessary to spend the time learning the language, and the cultural adjustments will be minimal. We will immediately be able to immerse ourselves in ministering to the people. But we are not simply going home. God has given us the task of taking the Gospel to the millions of Argentines who have never been told. We are burdened for their souls. During our first year on the field we plan to work alongside a veteran Independent Baptist missionary to become most effective in planting indigenous Argentine churches. This time will also allow us to seek out the specific area in which the Lord wants us to start planting churches.



Our Call



Rachelle: I had the great privilege of growing up in a strong Christian home of Baptist missionaries in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They taught me about sin and salvation at a young age. This was what helped me to understand and to receive Jesus as my Savior

when I was young. I was baptized by my Dad when I was seven years old. Due to growing up in Argentina as a missionary kid, I saw the need that the Argentines have for the Gospel, but I struggled with God's call on my life. I dedicated my life to Him when I was ten years old, but still held back a part of myself—the part that knew He wanted me to be a missionary. It was finally during a youth conference, when I was sixteen, that I completely surrendered my life to God. Since then I have attended Bible College at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, Minnesota, and graduated in 2001. I then moved to Springfield and married my husband, Ben. We have been serving in our local church, Cherry Street Baptist, before coming on staff as missionary interns. Our internship has been very useful in growing and developing me, and I am glad we are beginning the next part that will get us closer to our goal of serving God in Argentina. I have asked God many times through prayer to make sure Argentina is where He wants us. I know there is a great need there, and my heart is burdened for the Argentines but I don't want to just "go home." I want us to be where God has called us. He keeps confirming His call over and over, so we truly believe that is where He wants us to go. I am encouraged by knowing that Ben and I will not have to learn the language, and are already very familiar with the culture. I believe this will benefit our ministry so that we can win Argentines to Christ as soon as we arrive in the country. The need is great, and we desire to get there as soon as we can.

Ben: I set foot on Argentine soil for the first time 22 years ago, at the age of eight. My parents, Dennis and Rena Metzger, served as missionaries there for eleven years. I was saved and baptized at a young age and grew up in a strong Christian home. Throughout



my childhood and teenage years, I was able to not only see, but also participate in my parents' ministry. In fact, several of my friends came to know the Lord and grew up along with me in our church. Unfortunately, I saw so many others that would not turn from their strong Catholic family traditions. The Catholic roots run very deep, and very often strangle any Gospel seeds that are planted. Since my parents gave me the chance to be involved in their ministry, I grew to enjoy the Lord's work and seeing lives completely changed by God's Word. Being a missionary was great, but not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I had my own plans, my own ambitions. While at a youth retreat at the age of 15, I fell under very deep conviction that I had not asked God what He wanted me to do with my life, but instead had made all the plans myself. During the next couple of years the Lord overwhelmingly pressed upon my heart I needed to use my life to share His love and forgiveness with those who have never heard. He wanted me to become a missionary, so I surrendered. Since then, the Lord has repeatedly confirmed this calling in our lives and given us a deep burden for the millions of lost souls in Argentina, many of whom we personally know. Today, Catholicism has enslaved 4 out of every 5 Argentines and only 1 in 10 identify with any kind of Bible believing church. So many cults are growing at an astonishing rate. The highest concentration of Jews and Muslims is found in the country of Argentina. There are still millions who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

His Preparation

General ministry and life experience—

- Ben and Rachelle are fluent in Spanish.
- Both grew up immersed in the Argentine culture.
- Both were actively involved in parents' missionary ministries.
- Both have participated in various music ministries.
- Ben led congregational worship for three years.
- Ben graduated from Baptist Bible College in 2004 with a Missions degree, and Baptist Bible Graduate School of Theology in 2009 with a MA in Biblical Studies.
- Rachelle graduated from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in 2001 with a degree in Bible and Womens' Ministries, and Louisiana Baptist University in 2012.

Ministry to adults—

- Two years as directors for the Reformer's Unanimous Addictions program, both were personally involved with the spiritual freedom and growth of its students.
- Both spent five years actively involved as Care Group leaders in a young families class.
- Both personally led adults to the Lord.
- Both personally discipled adults through a discipleship program.
- Ben taught adult Sunday School and preached in church.
- Rachelle led ladies' Bible studies and taught devotionals.
- Both recruited and trained ministry leaders.

Ministry to youth—

- Both spent two years as Middle School directors.
- Both personally led youth to the Lord.
- Both personally discipled youth through a discipleship program.
- Both recruited and trained ministry leaders.

Ministry to children—

- Both built up and ran a bus route for Sunday morning services.
- Both Served as K-second grade AWANA leaders.
- Ben directed Sunday morning children's ministry.
- Rachelle directed pre-school for two years.
- Both taught second and fifth grade Sunday School classes.
- Both personally led children to the Lord.
- Both recruited and trained ministry leaders.



Cherry Street Baptist Church

1201 S. Oak Grove
Springfield, MO 65804

417.889.1999

Dennis W. Jennings, Pastor

May 8, 2012

From: Pastor Dennis Jennings

Re: Recommendation of Ben & Rachelle Metzger

Dear Pastor,

It is with great joy that I recommend to you Ben and Rachelle Metzger, missionaries to Argentina. I was privileged to serve as their Pastor during their internship at Cherry Street Baptist Church. They have shown themselves to be faithful and willing servants of the Lord. They have demonstrated exceptional proficiency in the work of the ministry, including teaching, preaching and personal evangelism. They have not only won people to the Lord Jesus Christ, but also trained others to replace themselves as they transitioned out of the day to day ministry of Cherry Street to begin the deputation process.

Ben, Rachelle and their family will be wonderful missionaries to Argentina. They already know the language and the customs which will enable them to be effective immediately upon arriving in the country. This couple is definitely worthy of your prayerful support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions related to the Metzger family.

For the sake of the gospel,

Dennis Jennings
Pastor



April 25, 2012

Dear Pastor:

This letter is to recommend Ben and Rachelle Metzger to you as Baptist Bible Fellowship International missionaries to Argentina. Both Ben and Rachelle grew up on the mission field as missionary kids and were active in the ministries of their parents. Because they already know the language and the culture, I believe they have a head start in the ministry in Argentina.

The Metzgers have completed the necessary education as required by the BBFI and they have also finished their internship at Cherry Street Baptist Church. As a member of Cherry Street Baptist Church I have observed their growth in the Lord and servant hearts as they ministered to the people.

You will find both Ben and Rachelle to be very personable and their love for missions is obvious. They are dedicated to the Lord's call upon their lives and are faithful soul winners for Christ.

It is with great confidence that I highly recommend the Metzgers to represent you and your church as missionaries in Argentina. Thank you for considering them and for all you do for world missions.

With you in the Harvest,



Jon Konnerup

JK:ckm

Dedicated to Serving Pastors and Missionaries

Mission Director: Jonathan Konnerup

Associate Mission Directors: Steve Bender, Paul Hylton, Jim Smith

LIGHTHOUSE

BAPTIST CHURCH

3025 NORTH LINDBERGH ST ANN, MO 63074 314.291.6919 YOURLBC.COM

May 18, 2012

Rev. Jim Smith
Assistant Missions Director
Baptist Bible Fellowship, Int.
PO Box 191
Springfield, MO 65801

Dear Jim,

The Lord has been so good to us in the BBFI to supply such quality missionaries through the years, and we praise His Name for that.

Therefore, I count it an honor to give personal recommendation for Ben and Rachelle Metzger as missionaries to the country of Argentina. I'm certain that they will continue this long line of great missionaries that give their lives to reach this world. As you know, they come from a wonderful and godly family and I believe they will be one of God's choice servants.

I'm also praying that they will be able to raise the needed support quickly so they can get right to work!

Because of Calvary,

Dr. Keith Gillming
Senior Pastor
St. Louis, MO 63043

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May 8, 2012

Dear Pastors,

It was my privilege to recommend without any reservation for you to support Ben and Rachelle Metzger. I was witness to their indefatigable ministry at Cherry St. Baptist Church while I was their Sr. Pastor.

They participated in the music ministry, led children's choir, regularly attended visitation and led souls to Christ. They both also taught Sunday school classes. Ben was a deacon and has the respect of other leaders in the congregation.

They would be a great asset to your mission ministry!

Ken Gillming

Chief Academic Officer

Boston Baptist College

(Former Senior Pastor Cherry St. Baptist Church)

Recommendations

“Both Ben and Rachelle were raised in missionary homes. They both have a passion for Argentina... It is my privilege to recommend them to Argentina through the auspicious Baptist Bible Fellowship International.”

— *Rev. David E. Lingo, Berean Baptist Church. Bolivar, MO.*

“Growing up in the home of missionaries, Ben and Rachelle understand the joys, benefits, challenges, and struggles and heartaches of being BBFI missionaries... The BBFI will be served well to have Ben and Rachelle as ambassadors of Christ representing us to the people of Argentina.”

— *Kevin Carson, D. Min, Sunrise Baptist Church. Ozark, MO.*

“I can honestly say that this couple has been cultivated by God since they were children to be effective ministers of the Gospel. They worked faithfully with their parents in Argentina for years... I have watched them over the past number of years as they have patiently and thoroughly prepared themselves... I cannot think of one reason why we wouldn't get completely behind them and promote them getting to the field as quickly as possible.”

— *Rev. Charles Bell, West Division Street Baptist Church. Springfield, MO.*

“As teenagers, both Ben and Rachelle, individually, sensed God's call on their lives to serve Him as missionaries, and through the years that calling has only become stronger... we thank God for His work in their lives in confirming and strengthening their conviction of His call on their lives, and their desire to return.”

— *Rev. Barry L. Courts (Rachelle's father), Iglesia Bautista Calvario. Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

“I am very excited and proud as a father and pastor to see Ben and Rachelle follow God's leading them to Argentina as missionaries. Observing them growing up in Argentina, and serving their parents in whatever capacity. I know that God will use them effectively. I believe they are both ready to meet the challenges that will be presented to them in Argentina as His willing and uniquely prepared servants.”

— *Rev. Dennis E. Metzger (Ben's father), Rose Hill Baptist Church. Willard, MO.*