

WEEK 16 • APRIL 22, 2023

Argentina: To the End of the World

2 Corinthians 5:17—“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”

Erick Sanchez, a theology student from Peru, listened as his professor challenged the class: “God expects you to be a missionary—somewhere in the world.” These words planted a desire in Erick’s heart to serve God wherever He leads.

Soon after, Erick read an ad requesting a Bible teacher for a mission school in Argentina. He contacted the school and applied for the position. He was accepted. Erick prayed that God would use him to change the lives of the people he would serve.

Erick flew to Ushuaia [OOS-WHY-AH], Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. Ushuaia has beautiful, cold, snowy weather. Many people struggle to maintain a basic living, and many are addicted to alcohol or tobacco.

The church planned a stop-smoking program and invited everyone in town to attend. Erick gave out invitations wherever he went. One cold, wet day after hours of plodding through the snow, he sought shelter at a hospital. He warmed up but felt too weary to continue walking. He left some invitations in the reception area and walked home.

On the opening night of the seminar, dozens of people came. The room reeked with the pungent smell of tobacco, signaling how desperate these people were to stop smoking. Many attended regularly and conquered the nicotine habit. On the final day the attendees were offered Bible studies if desired.

While following up on requests for Bible studies, Erick visited Elena and her son, Jonathan, who had attended the meetings. They were eager to learn about God.

“How did you learn about the meetings?” Erick asked. Elena smiled broadly. “I was waiting at the hospital, and I saw the invitation to the stop-smoking meeting. We decided to attend.” Erick realized that God had used a flier he had left there to reach this family.

Through the influence of the seminars, Elena had found the victory over tobacco, and her family met Jesus. They studied the lessons and prepared for baptism.

By the end of Erick’s year in Ushuaia, God had used his service to lead 26 people to God.

If Jesus is calling you to serve, whether at home or far away, tell Him that you will go. In the meantime, you can serve God’s mission to the world through your tithes and regular systematic offerings, called Promise, that support every facet of God’s work around the world.

