

International Cross-Pollination



The thirteen Argentines from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and friends

When Gerardo Muniello accepted the call to pastor St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Buenos Aires, Argentina he took on the role of spiritual leadership not just of a church but within the "St. Andrew's community" comprised of the church, a well-respected K-12 school and a university. In 2002, during a conversation with Northland supported missionaries Tim and Annette Gulick, Gerardo's face reflected his intense concern as he said, "From my work as a business consultant I know the vital role of cross-pollination in a movement. But because the St. Andrew's community is so unique, I don't personally know of any churches that can encourage and sharpen us like we need. Can you help us?"

Several years and much prayer later, pastor Vernon Rainwater, Margi McCombs and Azurae Willis visited the St. Andrew's community and felt that here was a church enough like Northland for there to be intimacy, but different enough for each to be necessary to the accomplishment of our respective callings.

This was confirmed for the leadership of St. Andrew's church when Pastor Gerardo and several elders visited Northland in Feb. '05. This trip helped the church solidify their practice of worship and laid the foundation for them to send a delegation of thirteen to Orlando this June. Their goals for the trip included improving the church's children's ministry and use of technology, learning more about how Northlanders impact their community, understanding the tool of the new building and exploring other potential global partnerships. Amazingly, all this and more was accomplished as relationships were built and enjoyed.



One of many delightful meals with hosts and visitors

The Argentines who visited us have a lot to do when they get back to their ministry at St. Andrew's but each one returned with a fresh passion fueled by their experience with the people and practices of Northland. For example, Walter Padron came because he and his wife teach in the children's department but he left with a determination to make his bakery a place of ministry. As he explained, "During a meal someone pointed out that not everyone goes to church, but everyone goes to work, so our workplace is a place we can meet people's spiritual needs. I had always longed to do that with my business but never thought it possible."

This visit brought to light many ways that Northland and St. Andrew's can help each other extend and fulfill their particular capabilities, accomplishing more for the building of the Kingdom together than we could apart. In July, Jim Laird will make a follow-up visit to St. Andrew's and work on preparation for their Founders Day celebration in September. And if *you* happen to be in Buenos Aires, make sure you plan time to visit our friends at St. Andrew's. You'll be glad you did.



Dreaming of ways youth groups from the two churches can connect