



# GATS SOUTH AMERICA

*Shane Hayes - Regional Coordinator*

**Learning is a never-ending climb! Although it appears to be a struggle, you obtain a greater appreciation the higher you go.**

*Dr. Alison Willis stated "Getting an education is like climbing a mountain. At the bottom of the mountain the pile of knowledge that you need to conquer can seem overwhelming. Some of it might be completely new and foreign to you, some of it may be challenging. But the higher you climb this metaphoric mountain of knowledge, the more you can see, the more you understand. Understanding only comes with perspective, and perspective is limited at the bottom of the mountain."*

*I would like to add, "there is no summit in this climb!"*

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**The task of the modern educator is not to cut down the jungles, but to irrigate deserts. - C.S. Lewis**



**What's  
New?**

# *GATS Schools on the climb!*



**1st Peruvian GATS Seminar**



**Talca Chile GATS Graduates**



**Colombian GATS Seminar**



**1st class of the new  
Maranhão, Brazil campus**



**Colombian instructors travelling**



**Colombian Bible School Graduates**

# What Is Happening In South America?

Here is a brief summary of the activities within the region.

**Argentina:** 65 students enrolled for March 2016, up 5 from 2014. In their recent October graduation, 23 graduated. Bro Sponsler reports that the Bible School began an aggressive evangelism program where, twice a month, the students go to a local church for outreach then have an evangelistic service. And annex was started in Bahia Blanca.

**Brazil:** Now has 124 Bible Schools! There are 427 teachers and 2,424 students enrolled in 2015. They are graduating approximately 60% each year after 700 hours of classroom time over 2 years. This is amazing considering the first Bible School was started in 1972. Sis DeMerchant runs the Bible School program with an organized group of vice directors.

Their goal is to have 5,000 students enrolled by 2020. They're distributing 100,000 Portuguese textbooks to 1st and 2nd year students. Bro DeMerchant reports that "These trained young men and women are finding their place in God and calling that translates in many new works and to help send missionaries to 5 other countries. For the first time the General Board of UPC of Brazil approved all new ministers to present graduation certificate to hold credentials."

**Bolivia:** Was GATS approved in 2015! The Bible School is functioning in various districts throughout the nation, however more information isn't available at this time. Bro. Adolfo Arancibia is the national Bible School director and is currently attempting to compile this information.

**Chile:** The oversight mentioned in 2015's report was accomplished. The program has been overhauled, including changing facilities. The Bible School is now a separate entity from the local church and this has been met with overwhelming approval from the national work. There are currently 35 students and 12 graduates for 2015.

**Colombia:** Bro. Poitras and I conducted a GATS seminar was conducted in Cali, Colombia in May 2015. There were 38 instructors and faculty from around the nation in attendance. It was an honor to be asked to preach their graduation with 26 graduating. The application for GATS membership was received on December 31, 2015.

**Ecuador:** We will be working with Ecuador in the future to roll out GATS. Bro. Guidry has been making trips to Ecuador and will assist in the process.

**Paraguay:** Currently has 20 students enrolled and no graduates for 2015.

**Peru:** Bros. Bir and Nix traveled to Peru in 2015 for a GATS seminar. Peru has bought into the GATS program wholeheartedly and had 75 participants in the seminary and currently has 9 satellite campuses.

**Uruguay:** Application for GATS membership was received on December 31, 2015. Currently 5 students are enrolled. I would like to plan a seminar for 2016, once the Walmers return from deputation.

**Venezuela:** Was unable to make the trip to Venezuela in 2015 due to political instability. We are hoping to be able to make a trip sometime in the future.



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## 2015 Goals Status

1. Roll out GATS program in Peru.

Status: **Complete**

2. Roll out GATS program in Colombia.

Status: **Complete**

3. Roll out GATS program in Venezuela.

Status: **Incomplete**

4. Finalize Application and approval for Bolivia.

Status: **Complete**

5. Finalize Application and approval for Uruguay.

Status: **Complete**

