

GLOBAL REPORT

SPRING 2025

HOPE AND HEALING IN BUENOS AIRES

Explore the history of Drs. Alfredo and Asunta Espinoza
and how they care for the people in Buenos Aires!



On the morning of July 18, 1994, a truck bomb exploded in front of the central Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The blast killed 85 Argentinians, Jewish and Gentile, and injured hundreds more, marking the country's deadliest terror attack ever. Until the Hamas attacks in Israel on October 7, 2023, this bombing stood as the largest mass murder of Jews since the Holocaust.

Dr. Alfredo Espinoza, lead doctor and director of The Friends of Israel (FOI) medical clinic in Buenos Aires, was one of the first emergency medical responders to arrive on the scene. As the chaotic scene unfolded, Alfredo immediately began treating survivors and helped to coordinate other first responders' medical treatment efforts. His work that day—combing the rubble, transporting victims, and providing emergency triage—proved to the Jewish community that Christians still care for them in the name of Jesus. It also showed FOI's unrelenting commitment to stand by the Jewish people in their times of trouble, opening doors to ministry for decades to come.

Alfredo and his wife, Dr. Asunta Espinoza, have been serving the Jewish community in Argentina for nearly 50 years. They both work tirelessly as the hands and feet of Jesus. Today, they continue to pour out their lives to provide not only lifesaving medical care but critical soul care as well, while training others to do the same.

As I share more about Alfredo and Asunta's ministry, would you consider partnering with us to care for the people of Buenos Aires? In Dr. Alfredo's words, "It's thanks to your prayers that miracles are happening before our eyes in this far south corner of the world."

CALLING TO BUENOS AIRES

Since the mid-1800s, Buenos Aires has maintained a growing community of Jewish Diaspora, many of whom fled persecution and pogroms in Eastern Europe. Following the Nazis' rise to power and World

War II, Buenos Aires became home to hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants.

In 1954, when Alfredo was only 3 years old, his family boarded a train from their home in Bolivia to Buenos Aires. Alfredo's father, a Jewish believer and pastor, relocated his family there because God had called him to a new ministry. This was the beginning of an incredible journey God had planned for Alfredo to live and minister among His Chosen People in Argentina.

Growing up in Buenos Aires's Jewish quarter exposed Alfredo to many new cultures. Jewish immigrants from Italy, Spain, Poland, and Russia filled the streets of the city. For the first time, Alfredo and his siblings were surrounded by friends who spoke Yiddish at home and Spanish in the classroom. At a young age, Alfredo accepted the Lord as his Savior, and his hunger for Scripture grew daily. At only 18 years old, Alfredo began to lead a small congregation of believers in the Jewish quarter. Simultaneously, he was admitted to the School of Medicine in Buenos Aires. He continued pastoring throughout his studies in medical school. But in 1977, when he and Asunta graduated, Alfredo felt like he had only achieved "half of his goal."

"I deeply desired to dedicate my life to gospel ministry," Alfredo shares. So, he and Asunta, along with their newborn daughter Veronica, accepted God's call to serve in the jungles of Bolivia, carrying out Christ's Great Commission. For nearly two years, they ministered among tribesmen of the jungles who knew little to no Portuguese or Spanish. Despite the language barrier, they learned that caring for their neighbors' medical needs opened doors for the gospel,



a lesson that would become the backbone of their next ministry calling from the Lord.

“In the jungle regions of the country, back along the frontier with Brazil, Asunta and I sensed a great need for medical doctors willing to use their abilities for God’s glory,” Alfredo says. “God revealed work to me that needed to be done in another jungle—the asphalt jungle of Buenos Aires. We felt led to take our approach of using medical services for the gospel into Jewish evangelism in Buenos Aires.” God opened the door for the Espinozas to join FOI and build a medical clinic within the heart of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires.

CARING FOR BODY AND SOUL

Quality medical care is not affordable or accessible for many in Argentina. The FOI clinic is unique because it offers all medical services free to patients. Dr. Espinoza explains another reason that the clinic is unique: “Day after day, patients stream through the clinic, and in addition to the cure for their physical problems, they find the divine remedy for their sin-inflicted souls.” Each person who walks through the clinic doors receives prayer and is read Scripture before receiving treatment. Every day patients come

with pain and sickness, and they leave with healing and hope.

Alfredo is a cardiologist, cardiac surgeon, nephrologist, and critical-care specialist, while Asunta is a pediatrician and dermatologist. In 2013, their son, Juan Carlos, a cardiac surgeon and internist, joined their team at the clinic. When it opened its doors in 1983, the clinic was a simple two-room facility. In 2010, the Espinozas purchased a more permanent facility capable of meeting many more patients’ needs. The added space provided room for nurses’ training and Bible studies in the evenings. Located in the heart of Buenos Aires, between two Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods, the clinic now provides care for more than 20,000 people each year.

The Espinozas’ ministry, however, is not limited by the walls of the clinic. They provide free, open-air blood pressure screenings and maintain rounds at hospitals and elderly care facilities. Their food distribution ministries and their 24-hour ambulance service allow them to reach those in need within their Jewish neighborhood. Additionally, Alfredo and Asunta lead “rural health campaigns” in which they partner with churches in remote villages around Argentina to provide a mobile medical clinic to people who otherwise

would not receive medical care in their own towns.

For Alfredo, house calls regularly turn into Bible studies with patients and their families. Physical illness often mirrors spiritual sickness, and Alfredo is incredibly gifted at transforming medical conversations into spiritual ones. Recently, a patient in his 50s visited the clinic with symptoms of a viral infection and respiratory distress. He thought he only had a sore throat. However, with deft skill, Alfredo diagnosed and treated the man for the infectious disease that was damaging his heart. When Alfredo gave the man the diagnosis, he took the opportunity to share God's promise in Ezekiel 36:26: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you." God used this conversation to begin opening the patient's eyes to his true spiritual condition.

CONTINUING TODAY

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the clinic's School of Nursing. At first, as former patients began volunteering at the clinic, Alfredo offered very basic teaching. However, the training grew in depth and content, and now the clinic's nursing school partners with local hospitals and their processes for certifying their nursing staff. As part of this work, the FOI clinic also runs a medical technology program, where students are instructed in surgical instrumentation, non-invasive imagery, and EKG machine operation.



The education provided at the clinic is a vital part of how Buenos Aires's medical community trains the next generations of nurses and medical professionals. Most of these students are unsaved, but Alfredo and his staff have open opportunities to share the truth of the gospel with these young, aspiring professionals.

In the early years of the clinic, Alfredo didn't return home for days on end because there were too many patients with critical needs. His family brought him food and clean clothing. Today, the needs in Buenos Aires are just as great, both physically and spiritually. With the help of faithful supporters like you, the Espinozas have continued to expand their ministry to help even more people. God has supplied them with a staff of volunteers and professionals equipped to provide medical care for everything from cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and AIDS to drug dependence and mental health diagnoses.

The Espinozas continue to fulfill the Great Commission, just as they did back in their early days serving in the jungle. Ministering among God's Chosen People on the streets of Buenos Aires for decades, Alfredo and Asunta are leading people to the One who can heal both body and soul. Would you consider how your prayer and financial support might help them bless more of the Jewish community with the love of Messiah Jesus?

In Christ Alone,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dan Price".

DAN PRICE, MDiv
Director of International Ministries



If God has spoken to you about partnering with Drs. Alfredo and Asunta Espinoza today with prayer and a financial gift, please send your gift to The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc, PO Box 908, Bellmawr, NJ 08099, or visit foi.org/global-report to donate online.