



WOW: Word Of the Week

Alone!

April 30, 2025

It had been a long day of teaching and preaching! Sunday morning Bible class and worship; lunch shared at the church building; teaching an afternoon seminar, evening worship, then an invitation to eat at the home of one of the elderly couples in the church. The lodging in Montevideo was quite good on this visit—the prophet’s quarters at the church building included a comfortable bed, small refrigerator, and microwave. On other visits, I stayed in the homes of members.

The Sunday night meal and conversation extended further and further into the night. Delightful. A little before midnight we were finally winding down. Two options? My host can get out his car and take me back to the church building—or I can walk the 6-8 blocks. I hesitated to ask my elderly host for a ride. They assured me it was safe to walk the streets of Montevideo at midnight.

I walked near the curb, first on the sidewalk and then in the street, opting to walk in the street in dimly lit areas. There was no traffic on the streets as I walked. I saw not one person in the kilometer or so (2/3 mile) that I walked. I was very aware of being alone (this was pre-cell phones).

Aware of being alone. Uniquely aware of not being alone. I could not tell that anyone was around. I was certain that God was present. I remember the experience as though it happened recently. I remember no time in my life when I was more acutely aware of being alone and being with God at the same time. How often is God present when we do sense his presence, think of it, seek to be aware of it?

The problem of modern life. We are never alone. We are constantly hooked up, connected. Or at least we can be. A mission deacon forwarded me an email, then called me with a question about a work in Colombia. The deacon lives about 100 miles from Tulsa. I did not know the answer to his question. We hung up with my promise to call him back in 10-15 minutes with an answer. I immediately called a contact in Colombia on WhatsApp—2579 miles away. Within minutes I had an answer, hung up, and called the deacon back.

When are we genuinely alone? Do you ever leave your phone at home on purpose? When do you disconnect? We are blessed and at the same time distracted.

Alone, but not alone. This week, seek to find a little alone time—praying, expecting, that God will show up! Our world does not give us many opportunities to “be still and know that God is God.”