

Dear Everyone,



I was standing at the back of the church when Daniel arrived. No idea where he sleeps, but he looks and smells like he isn't often sober enough to care. As I instinctively stepped sideways and drew my baby closer to me, the voice in my head said "actually, it was him I came for". So I stepped sideways the other way and greeted him (that involves kissing here). He gurgled unintelligibly at Joni, who gurgled unintelligibly back at him, and a hint of "God made man" peeped in from amongst the tinsel.

Merry Christmas all, hope you have had a good one. We celebrated in time-old Argentinean fashion, with cow on the barbecue. An Indian friend said "Ten thousand years ago, man was throwing beef at a fire and in Argentina there hasn't been much evolution since". We say, if you can't beat them, join them. Christmas celebrations here take place on the night of the 24th, which makes the 25<sup>th</sup> feel like a boxing-day non-event, especially to those of us whose offspring don't yet believe in parental lie-ins. So we went out to the river for the day, and called in for a dip in a friends' paddling pool on the way back.



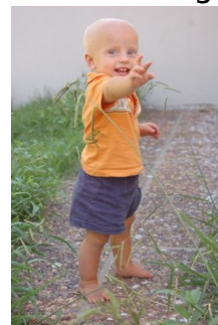
As for the rest of life, re-reading our October newsletter it is encouraging to realise just how settled we feel here now compared with those short months ago. Martin has reconnected

with the guys from the prison in Cordoba, and it's great to see some of the men making progress and moving on with their lives. I have also been into the prison in San Francisco, and we are hoping to find a way to visit regularly here too. Closer to home in our barrio, we are building relationships with two very different groups of people. One is the large number of primary school aged children, a bunch of whom have decided on our house as their new favourite base. The other is a population of damaged ex-church people. Hurting and cynical, these folk aren't the easiest to get to know, but they seem to be reaching out to us, and we wonder if, as foreigners, we might be sufficiently outside the system to be part of a restoration process.

For updates and more details, we recommend our blog at [www.frostmartinhazel.org](http://www.frostmartinhazel.org). Thank you for all your support in 2007. Happy New Year all, here's to a good one.

Love from

Hazel X Martin



and Joni