

August 2009

## Dear Everyone,

Greetings from sunny San Fran. We hope you are well. Here the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the ants have eaten my strawberry plants down to the roots; spring must be in the air. July was filled with a visit from Hazel's sister and family which we really enjoyed. We managed trips to Buenos Aires and Cordoba (photo of us on the train) as well as around San Fran; Martin even took John to prison with him. It's a long way to Argentina, so we love it when folk make it across to see us.



Now we are back to being the four of us (including lodger) plus two dogs and the occasional hangers on, and normal life has resumed (whatever that might look like). **Joni** continues to enjoy going to nursery in the mornings, he is learning new words by the day, loves toy cars (buses/ trains /tractors), any sort of animals, and digging with sticks and stones in the sand (photo at bottom of page).

**Martin** is currently revamping our blog and website as a personal project, and continues to visit the prisons in both Cordoba and San Francisco. It is a joy to see our friend Sergio rebuilding his life on the "outside". He is a resourceful guy, has managed to learn some carpentry skills which is enabling him to pick up some bits of work particularly from folk at church. Here, as in the UK, it is not easy for people with prison records to find employment, which contributes to the "revolving-door" syndrome as they find "alternative" means of providing for themselves, ending up back inside.

**Hazel** is now regularly going to the village of Quebracho Herrado around four times a week. We have a couple of young people from our church involved in the community project and could also do with another couple to commit themselves regularly. We have links with the school, the library, the clinic, and the "informal community centre", alias the bar; and we are also building relationships with several families, some with a disabled family member, and others whose children need extra support to survive in school.



A couple of hours away in another slightly bigger village of Obispo Trejo, we are developing a relationship with another children's home. They have around 25 children, mainly teens, and are strongly linked to the local brethren churches (we met them through some brethren friends). We have had a couple of meetings with staff and spent the day there on Sunday (photo of Sunday afternoon football), and we are hoping in time that we might work in partnership on some projects together involving some Latin Link short-termers; we'll let you know how it pans out.

"The terms we use like 'disability', falling short of an ideal, suggest that we know what wholeness is, but it is a static notion... Static perfection is no use as an ideal because the only possibility of change is loss, fall". Frances Young in *Face to Face*

As ever, more can be found on our blog (look out for the new version coming soon), via [www.frostmartinhazel.org](http://www.frostmartinhazel.org). Thanks for your invaluable support.



Love From  
Hazel X Martin  
and Joni