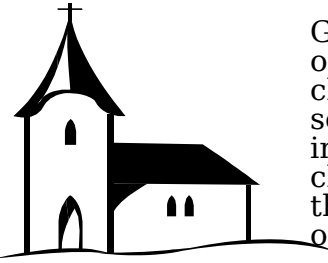


April 2006

Dear Everyone,



Greetings and happy Easter from Argentina. We hope you had a good one, however you celebrated. Here, Easter is huge in the Catholic church, and no-one else seems to mention anything about it at all. This seems like a wasted opportunity to us. Hazel went to the main square in town and watched the processions from the various Catholic churches, and went to the reading of the Passion from John's gospel in the cathedral, along with most of the rest of the city: standing room only. It was a good experience to have had.

We have now finally managed to move house, which we are busily populating with visitors, furniture and our dog, Camila the ex-street mutt who is helping to introduce us to the neighbours, and learning to ignore our instructions in two languages. Our new contact details appear below (unless you are reading this on the website, in which case you will need to email us to find out). As yet we do not have a phone line, this will take about three weeks apparently. We are now in a quiet neighbourhood about fifteen minutes cycle ride from the city centre, and we have plenty of space for visitors, so you're all welcome, credit card bookings taken....



The rest of life: Spanish study rumbles on, Martin is having two lessons a week, and also getting together with people a couple of times a week for conversation practise. He has also started work with an organisation, ACAPEF with people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorders one day a week where he is enjoying making relationships with service users and staff. Martin recently had the privilege of preaching in the local prison, (Hazel translated) when twelve men were baptised in a leaky paddling pool. We are both involved in a small church plant in the barrio of Sachi, just outside the city limits, where the police have turned a blind eye to crime for many years, but recently the area is being cleaned up, the little church is showing signs of growth, and we have just opened a children's club on Saturday afternoons. Back in the city, Hazel has joined a sign language group where she is meeting new people and improving her sign language. With a small group of women from church, Hazel is also visiting the hospital for people with terminal conditions, particularly AIDS and Cancer. At the moment, we are trying to put together a project to offer more practical support for the patients and their families. Finally, Hazel is still trying to develop some contacts to open opportunities for disability work here in Cordoba, this is going more slowly than I had hoped, which shows amongst other things that it is still very much an undeveloped area here, with very few churches having much awareness of the needs, let alone taking steps to meet them, so I am looking for wisdom, and like minded people, to know what to do next.

As always, this newsletter is a brief snapshot of what life is like for us at this moment. More information and photos will be on our website in due course. We would love people to interact with us on any of the issues that interest you. Thankyou for your support, and as ever, please stay in touch with your news too. .

Quote of the week: Jorge, looking at the top of Martin's head: "Do you know what we call someone here when they're mostly bald? A lollypop under the bed"

Love From

Hazel Martin
X

Latin Link
Enlace Latino



Partners in Christian Mission