

June 2006

Dear Everyone,

Greetings from Argentina. We hope you are enjoying the world cup. Here there is nothing else in the media, and the population is divided between the many who love it, and the few who hate it. Hazel is quite keen, but Martin doesn't get the intricacies of who's who, or what those arch shaped things are at either end of the pitch...

Unplanned events: We have managed to include first-hand experience of the health care system as part of our orientation process to Argentina, as at the end of May, Martin was involved in a road accident. Fortunately he was not seriously injured, mostly superficial cuts to his face and head (he made me take a photo, which I'm not printing here!) This is now healed up, however he remains out of action because he is still experiencing some issues with his neck, for which we are being seen by a spinal specialist. We would therefore appreciate your ongoing prayers for a good recovery. For the record, the treatment that we have received from the health care service here has been excellent, the public hospital is totally under resourced, but the staff are fantastic, and in the private sector there is everything available that you could possibly imagine. The fact has not escaped us



that we are in a privileged position here compared to many of the guys who we are working with, in that we can present a credit card and have immediate access to just about anything that we could get in the West, and in this respect we will always be "different" no matter how closely we integrate into the culture here



The rest of life... We made a trip to Uruguay in May for visa purposes, and enjoyed some days with Hazel's cousins in Montevideo, the photo on the left is of us at "the hand of God" sculpture in Punta del Este, a popular tourist spot on the Uruguayan coast. We went back via Buenos Aires where we had a couple of useful days meeting ministry contacts, and attended a disability workshop.

While Martin is now temporarily suspended, he is being visited by church members, which is great for building relationships. He is improving his Spanish through daytime soap operas and the world cup, although we not sure how useful he will find the vocabulary from either...

Hazel is continuing with the sign language group, and with the hospital visiting with people with AIDS and cancer. We are forming relationships with the social worker and psychologist at the hospital in order to work together to meet people's practical, emotional, and spiritual needs. In the church plant in Barrio Sacchi, the children's club is growing, a lot of the kids live in difficult circumstances, so wisdom for dealing with the kids and their behaviour is definitely needed. We are visiting every house in the neighbourhood, the aim is the every family will know at least who we are, and where to find us. One of the things that we have discovered through the visits is that there are several families who have disabled offspring, many of these families receive no services at all, and many of the disabled people rarely leave the house, so we are working on setting up a parents' support group, which we are planning to kick off with a teaparty in the next week or two. We are also generating interest in starting some sort of adult literacy work in the neighbourhood in the future. Finally, I have recently been to visit a fellowship group with adults with learning disabilities which is attached to a church on the other side of the city, and I am looking forward to developing relationships with people there.

Thank you for supporting us, we appreciate it very much. Please do stay in touch by any of the methods below, (or carrier pigeon if you prefer...) We are both MSN users, our addresses are available on request. You will notice below that we now have a phone number, and we are hoping to have broadband up and running soon.

Latin Link
Enlace Latino



Partners in Christian Mission

Love from
Hazel X Martin