

Dear Everyone,

Greetings from the UK! Although by the time you receive this, we will probably be nearly back in Argentina. We "popped in" for two weeks to go to Hazel's sister's wedding last weekend. The wedding went well, and it was good to get the family together again, some of whom we hadn't seen since our own wedding. Time was short, and we deliberately planned not to travel much, but we have enjoyed staying with Hazel's parents, seeing a few people, and catching up with a couple of local house groups (see photo).



Martin's neck... Before we left Argentina, we were sent for another MRI scan, which showed that things had not healed as the doctor was hoping, and he recommended surgery. While we have been in the UK some friends very generously paid for us to see a consultant for a second opinion. He looked at our collection of scans and said yes, Martin definitely needs surgery, yes this operation is the right one, yes the surgeon in Argentina appears to know his stuff, so go back and get it done. We are told that the operation has a high success rate, but that it does carry some risk as it involves exposing the spinal cord, so we value your prayers, and we will publicise dates when we have them.

We were encouraged in a slightly bizarre way, by a conversation that Martin had with a random (drunk) stranger in a pub last week...

Stranger: What you done to yourself?

Martin: Got run over by a car in Argentina!

Stranger: Argentina? What you doing there?

Martin: I'm a missionary

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Stranger: Well, you don't need to worry then, in your line of work as long as you can move your mouth you'll be alright...

While Martin's neck and its implications are occupying some of our energy, we do have other priorities for our return to Argentina... developing the support group for parents of disabled offspring, which has had two meetings and looks to become a source of support and friendship for the families involved; also Hazel has been asked to visit a childrens' home in the hills for a few days a month to help with the specific needs of the children there, so I need to organise myself to make that happen. We were talking with an Argentinian friend about how Martin's accident has prevented us from doing as much as we would have wanted, to which she responded "This is a culture where who you are is more important than what you do, and how you have responded to this crisis is speaking far more loudly to people here than anything else you might have achieved instead" Funny how things happen sometimes...



Love From

Hazel X

Martin