



WINTER HAS COME

Well hello from a cold and misty Buenos Aires. We are, as stated by one of Argentina's national newspapers, in the worst winter seen for 60 years!! La Nación proudly revealed that in May/June there were 41 days where temperatures stayed below (wait for it) ... 20°C. This 'intense cold' (their words) is a bit of a surprise for most people, but to us it just feels like a perpetual British February, albeit on the warm side. However, Argentina and its vicious winter had its revenge. Andrew, then the children, came down with horrible colds and, just as I was boasting to everyone about how someone had to hold the family together, I came down with pneumonia!! Result: two weeks without even leaving the flat and horrible pain every time I moved. La Nación was SO right. This is a TERRIBLE winter!!

ARIAS RETREAT



Despite all that, we were all fit and ready to go on a weekend away to farming country, to run a discipleship training weekend with some of the 20s-30s from Lomas and some of the leaders from a small church in Arias, Cordoba. Our family went up a few days early to enjoy the countryside and had the joy of seeing newborn piglets, lambs and calves, as well as discovering that Maia is a bit of a horse whisperer!

The training kicked off with a look at Hebrews 4:12-13 about the word of the Lord being sharper than a double edged sword and went on from there, with some practical sessions allowing people to work at context and central themes by themselves.

The Arias community is a farming one, so a couple of the people who came hadn't finished secondary school and struggled reading, while one of the Lomas team was a PhD student. It's good to know that God's Word is living and active for everyone, and our prayer is that everyone took something away from the weekend that gives them confidence in the Bible.

MAIA AT KINDER: UPDATE

A huge answer to prayer in the last few months has been Maia's improvement at her kindergarten. In the last month or so she's made some real steps forward with Spanish and seems much more confident when chatting to her Argentine friends. She makes some funny mistakes though. The other day she came back singing 'Let it Go' from Frozen, which, in Spanish is translated, 'Libre Soy' (I am free). She, however, was singing 'Libro Soy' at the top of her lungs, little realising she was proclaiming, 'I'm a book' to the world!

We were particularly proud of her taking part in her school performance for the Argentine Independence Day, singing and dancing beautifully and knowing more words of the national anthem than either of her parents! Even if she was a bit distractible (see photo)!



QUOTES OF THE LAST 3 MONTHS

- In our Thursday 20s-30s Bible study: “Where’s that bit in the Bible where it tells you to follow your heart?” Errr, that would be any Disney film you’ve ever watched...
- Catering concerns on the Arias retreat: “Are you sure half a chicken is enough for each person?”
- On Argentine time keeping: “Yes, yes, of course we’ll leave early. We’ll leave by 11am for sure.” Actual leaving time: 5.30pm.
- At the end of a bible study: “So, I have a question. The doctor is God, right? If I disobey the doctor, am I disobeying God?”
- Maia, singing: “I’m a BOOK, I’m a BOOK, can’t hold it back any more...”
- Emilio, praying: “Mmm, mama, mmm, papa, mmmm, Maia, mmmm bebe, Amen.”

PREACHING

Andrew’s been preaching roughly once a month here. The interesting thing about the Anglican church in Argentina is that it follows the lectionary (a given set of four readings each Sunday), which means instead of preaching through a book or a theme, you can jump from book to book each week. This is quite a challenging way to preach if you’re used to really digging into one book of the bible, and it could, at times, make it seem like the bible is lots of unrelated bits.

One of the challenges then is to help hearers get a grasp of the whole bible story line (a biblical theology) even when only little chunks are presented. Please pray for Andrew as he tries to do this in his sermons while still engaging culturally.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- **Praise God for the Arias retreat. The feedback has been very positive and it was a good time for Andrew to try out material on how to read the Bible with a really diverse group. We pray that there would be fruit as people in Lomas and Arias have confidence in God’s Word to do His work by His Spirit.**
- Please pray for us in daily life and routine. We’re all feeling quite tired and Emilio is often up very early in the morning, and he wakes everyone else up! Please pray that we would get a chance to feel a bit more refreshed before the new baby arrives!
- **We’re so thankful for your prayers for Maia. We love seeing her nattering away in Spanish and making friends at her kindergarten.**
- Praise God for everything still going well with the pregnancy, despite illness. The due date has been shifted a bit earlier, so look out for news around 15th September! Despite asking at two scans, we still don’t know the sex of the baby, so yellow and green is our colour scheme!
- **Praise the Lord, our visa documentation has all been handed in and approved. We’re just waiting for our new identity documents to arrive! After a long process and much queuing, we’re hoping that this last tiny step goes smoothly.**

And so endeth another letter. We hope to have news before the next edition of the safe arrival of newest Walker, which we’ll send out by email, so watch this space. Please do keep suggesting names - we are so stuck if it’s a boy! Meanwhile, in the next few days, we look forward to seeing Andy Lines (director of Crosslinks) and his wife Mandy, who are spending the last few days of their time in Latin America here in Buenos Aires, despite the dangerously low temperatures!

We leave you with a photo of Maia and Emilio loving the countryside, and a picture of that barbecued suckling pig, because Andrew wanted to make you all ~~jealous~~ want to come to visit!



Lots of love and many thanks for praying,

Andrew, Bethanie, Maia, Emilio and? xxxxx



Please contact the Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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