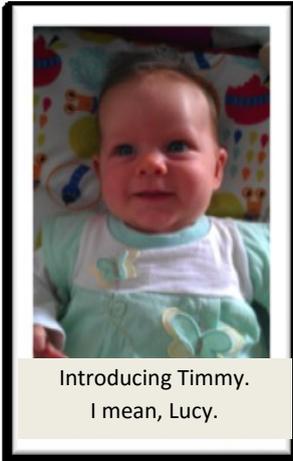




FAMOUS FIVE



Introducing Timmy.
I mean, Lucy.

Since our last letter, some things have changed (mainly our sleep patterns) due to the arrival of family member number five, **Lucía Charis Alana**. She was born on 17th September, which, if you're rubbish with dates, can be helpfully remembered by the fact it's the anniversary of Netherland soldiers discovering Mauritius in 1598. We've been enjoying newborn cuddles very much, having forgotten quite how floppy babies are! However, most cuddles are interrupted by some commotion involving Maia and/or Emilio, which means truly peaceful moments are quite scarce. And, now that we are five, I have an overwhelming urge to re-name us Julian, Anne etc and drink ginger beer while hunting for gold ingots. I think we'd be great.

ONE YEAR ON...

Back in October, we celebrated our one-year-in-Argentina anniversary. Happily, it coincided with Maia's school play, where she and her classmates dressed up as Daphne and Apollo (from a Greek Legend) and danced to Uptown Funk. It was a fitting celebration.

So, as we reflect on the year, here are some of the highlights:

- Getting to know our lovely church family and share in their joys and struggles
- Seeing a new group of 20s-30s coming together faithfully each week to study God's Word and watching them grow
- Experiencing a year of life in Argentina with its rich culture, distinct time-keeping and economic madness
- Learning to preach and prepare sermons in Spanish thinking about culturally relevant applications
- Investing in and building friendships with our neighbours
- Creating a new family tradition of pancakes on Saturday mornings



Maia dressed as Daphne,
with adoring fan.

REACHING OUT

Over the last few weeks, Andrew and I have been reading George Whitefield's biography. George is the kind of guy who decides to preach outside one day and ends up with crowds of 10,000 people sprinting over to listen to him. He also says things like, '*Preached nine times this week and expounded near eighteen times... I am every moment employed from morning till midnight*'¹ Makes you wonder what on earth we're doing with our time.

But, when we stop feeling puny, it's mostly challenging. This year in church we've been thinking about how to best serve and reach out to the people round us. Numerous ideas have bounced about, especially the one about the ping pong tournament. Currently, though, we're looking at something for Christmas, to encourage school-age children and their parents in. Please pray for ideas followed by action so that, as a church family, we would be able to reach out to people this Christmas with the amazing news of Jesus. We're not expecting 10,000, but we would love a bit of Whitefield zeal!

¹ From 'George Whitefield' by Arnold Dallimore, Volume 1 page 220

CONVERSATIONS WITH TODDLERS

Emilio: Tuddle please?
Me: Cuddle? Yes, I'll give you a cuddle.
E: No. Tuddle!!
Me: Yes, cuddle!
E: No. (pointing to musical turtle toy) Tuddle!!
Me: Oh. *Turtle*. (Sighs)
E: Yes.
Later on in the day...
E: Tuddle please?
Me: Turtle? Yes, here it is.
E: No. Tuddle!!
Me: Yes, turtle!
E: No (lifting arms up) Tuddle!!
Me: Oh! *Cuddle*...

A NOTE ABOUT PARCELS

We adore getting post, but, unfortunately, the postal system in Argentina is undergoing some kind of system change, which means that parcels from the UK are getting lost. If any of you have sent parcels recently and haven't had even a sniff of gratitude from us, then please don't think we're being rude. It means we haven't received them. So, because the post is so unpredictable (I think the official word is 'bonkers') we are advising against sending parcels - although letters and cards seem to be getting through. We know of at least 7 parcels that are lost in the worm-hole that is Argentine customs and we would hate for any more to end up there. The safest way for things to get here is for you to come yourself. You're always welcome!

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- **Praise God for the safe arrival of Lucy. Everything, from the day (a Saturday, so church friends were free to look after Maia and Emilio) to the timing (lunchtime, as opposed to the middle of the night) to the birth itself (no unwanted intervention and very speedy) was so much better than we had hoped. Thank you for praying, we're incredibly thankful for many answered prayers.**
- Please continue to pray for us in the every day routine. Andrew and I are feeling the decrease in sleep a newborn brings, although Lucy has been sleeping very well. I have been literally forgetting words mid-sentence (English as well as Spanish) and it's hard on Andrew for sermon and bible study prep.
- **Praise God for an exciting visit from Andrew's brother, Chris, who'll be here for a week in December. Please pray for us to use that time well and for encouragement all round. We're especially thankful to his wife, Jo, and the little ones who were happy for him to come.**
- We're hugely thankful that our identity documents have arrived!! All five of us now have Argentine ID numbers and this helps everything move a lot more smoothly and *hopefully* means we can get phone contracts, a bank account and things like that.
- **Pray for Christmas events at our church. While it's not such a big evangelistic opportunity as in the UK, we're hoping our Christmas event(s) will engage with people and give us a chance to reach people who would never normally consider coming to church.**

Recently we've had the joy of skypeing or videoing some of our partner churches. It's lovely to see your smiling faces, even if they're all pixelated and freeze every couple of minutes. Although the technology doesn't always go smoothly, we've really appreciated being able to share prayer requests for a specific week. This week for example, there's been a meeting with the bishop, sermon prep for a baptism on Sunday, two of our bible study group performing in an opera, a hospital visit, a pastoral meeting with lots of tears, failing to vaccinate our children (long story), a belated Remembrance Day event, signing the contract on our flat, a bat on our balcony (yes, really!) and beginning the paperwork for our next Visa. So please do feel free to email with suggestions for Skype or up to date prayer requests. We can't guarantee a swift reply every time, but we'll try very hard.

And so it is chau for now. (Yes, that is how we spell 'ciao' in Argentina) And we leave you with one of our new family photos. I call it, Famous Five Find Summer at Last. We'll leave you to assign characters.

Lots of love, Merry Christmas and huge thanks for your prayers and partnership,

*Andrew, Bethanie,
Maia, Emilio and Lucy
xxxxx*



Please contact the Crosslinks office to change your contact details

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