

Dear Everyone,

Greetings from Winter “holidays” in San Francisco. The “holiday” part is that schools are not sending out work for the next two weeks. We are not allowed to leave the city, and there is no-where we could go anyway as the rest of the country also remains closed, but we can go out dog-walking, cycling, horse-riding and to the plazas, so hopefully the weather will stay sunny for the next few days.

Here, as in much of the rest of the world, some things are changing and some things are staying the same, so we have put together a little round-up of snippets from our corner.



Face to face church meetings have been reinstated. Most churches are now running a combination of physical and virtual meetings. This photo is from La Gloria de Dios morning service last Sunday. Although online services may have enabled churches to reach a wider congregation, we had also become uneasy about some aspects of this; on one hand that the concept of “gathering” had given way to “performance” with the slickest performances attracting the most viewings, while at the same time marginalising folk

who may not have access to technology (which would be true for many in La Gloria de Dios congregation). With very few Covid cases in our part of the country, the main impact of the pandemic is economic. Many people here work hand to mouth, so four months into lockdown, the effect is palpable. We had a good chat yesterday with a guy collecting glass and cans to sell for recycling and we promised to save our empties for him to collect in a week or two. And just before that Hazel had a conversation and bought some pasta from



a member of the circus which is currently stuck here. They are unable to put on shows, and not allowed to leave the city, so the dozen or so families are selling food products on the street, and running a takeaway van. And today a man came round asking to buy lemons from our tree to sell in his corner shop. We liked his spirit of enterprise so we entered into a business arrangement to sell him lemons at a dozen a time whenever we have them. It was nice to catch up with Gonzalo, ex-prisoner friend who came to do some jobs in our house the other day. A few months ago he had the possibility to buy a small plot of land with a half-built house on it. We then made him a small loan for materials to make

the house inhabitable so that he and wife Adriana could move out of the rental property where they were living at the time. Fortuitously this happened just before lockdown, so when work became scarce, they were living in their own house, and gradually rebuilding it around themselves. Gonzalo is a real story of graft and perseverance so it is great to see the progress he has made in the eight years since they lived with us when he came out of prison, and he is looking forward to hosting Bible study again in his new house. Hazel has finished and passed her fourth university subject, and is currently waiting for the materials to be sent for her fifth and final subject, meanwhile she is also doing an online module on equestrian activities with disabled people. For more updates, check out the blog at [www.frostmartinhazel.org](http://www.frostmartinhazel.org) Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and support.

*Hazel X Martin*



*Joni & Daniel*

Latin Link 

