



Greetings from Winter holidays in San Francisco. There was some political debate over whether to cancel the Winter vacation, but to risk a combined mutiny from both teachers and parents is probably unwise in an election year, so we won a reprieve. At the moment there is a rumour that physical classes may be resumed in part-time bubbles at the end of the month, and we are praying that this will indeed be confirmed.

“Education” under lockdown might be illustrated with some practical examples: We handed in some homework to Danny’s literature teacher with apologies that it was a couple of weeks late. She sighed and said “Don’t worry mum, you’re the first”.

And this spoof was written by Joni on his experience of online science lessons: *“Today we will be doing a science experiment using items that you can find around your house, so before we get started you should collect up a thermo-nuclear device, an original postcard signed by Jesus Christ himself, and a freshly caught elephant”*. Joni received an excellent mid-year report, but, without detracting from his achievements, in a context where handing in anything at all catapults you to the top of the leader board, we rather share the concerns being expressed by the WHO and others regarding this generation of Latin America’s children.

Fortunately in other areas of life the news is mostly more encouraging. As of this week we have permission to resume face to face Scout meetings, so we held our first activity this afternoon (Saturday) playing silly games in the sunshine and planning a hike and cook-out for next week. In some of our previous newsletters we have been following the story of Rodri, now one of our Rover Scouts (aged 18-21). As well as continuing as an enthusiastic member of the group, he is now working, having recently been taken on as a plumber’s apprentice by the husband of one of our leaders. We love the demonstration of community being shown by this family in giving Rodri an opportunity to enter into the adult world of work, to gain some experience and learn a trade in a supportive environment. He is also still hoping to do some further study when the education systems open up again.



Hazel preached for the first time in a while the other week, thank you to those who were praying. It went better than she expected and the congregation were very positive; - they are old fashioned pentecostals and they heckled encouragingly in the right places(! ) This weekend it is Martin’s turn to preach. Martin has also been able to make phone contact with one of the men in the San Francisco prison. As yet the prisoners are still not allowed to receive visitors other than immediate family, but at least they are now able to be in touch by phone.

And this week we received a visit from a contingent of our Latin Link team who travelled from Salta - nearly 1000kms away, for the first time since before the pandemic. Although we have been in regular contact via zoom and whatsapp etc., it was nice to be able finally to see each other face to face.

Thank you for reading, and for your ongoing prayers and support. Have a good month!



Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

