

Dear Everyone

Greetings from properly cold San Francisco. This month a tale of three trips. Hazel is just back from a two-night Scout camp, during which the temperatures dropped to zero both nights. As well as plenty of goofing around and eating cake (photo) we also incorporated some challenging activities, such as solo cooking – each young person had to build and maintain their own fire, and use it to produce their evening meal (photo below), and for the second night we sent the most experienced Scouts out on their own into the bush where they carried out a range of activities, including route-finding, crafting items from natural materials, and some more personal reflection and spiritual activities. Then they each had to find themselves a camp-site in the woods, construct their refuge with whatever they could find, and sleep overnight in it, also lighting their fire and using it to cook their dinner and breakfast. We thought they might struggle with the cold and reappear very early the next morning (tropical kids don't often camp out in freezing temperatures), but it turned out they were having far too much of a good time and we didn't see them till lunch-time – when they ran out of food, and they turned up looking tired and somewhat battered, but very much made up with their own amazingness, and regaled their younger friends with tales from the wilderness. We are delighted by the progress of our Scouts, not only in their acquisition of camp-craft and outdoor skills, but much more importantly, seeing them grow and mature as young adults preparing to take their place in the world.

Another trip, a couple of weeks ago Hazel and the boys went to Buenos Aires for a visit that had been put on ice since the pandemic, to see some of the people whom Hazel had been working with when she was there back in the 1990's. It was a superb few days, especially catching up with Pastor Ramon, his wife Fran and their multitude



of grandchildren. Ramon has a church-planter's heart; Hazel used to work with him in one of the plants. Now he is two plants on. As he explained, when he thinks that the church is too big, he moves out and plants another one! At the moment he is working on a new plant near where the family lives. Hazel has an invitation to preach there for next time we visit, which we are tentatively planning for later in the year, maybe October. We also made the most of the opportunity for some touring in the big bad city (photo below); Danny had never been, so we walked many kilometres between parks and plazas, saw the obligatory landmarks, and took in a few museums and art galleries.



Now, as in the next few minutes (which is why I am trying to get this out quickly so please forgive any spelling mistakes or bad English) Hazel and the boys are off again, this time via two buses, a thousand kilometres to the north and the city of Salta, where we will be visiting some of the Argentina team for the next couple of days. One of our team families is imminently departing in order to work with refugees and asylum seekers in the south of Spain. So we are going to visit them before they leave, and take advantage of the trip to catch up with some of the other team families who live in the city. Martin has decided to enjoy the peace back in San Francisco. And next week school restarts again for the long second semester.

Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.

Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link

