

Dear Everyone

Greetings from four-season San Francisco. Last week it rained dramatically including hail stones the size of golf balls (that Hazel and Joni were caught out in) and the temperature dropped to five degrees. This week we are back up to a sweaty thirty-something degrees (forty yesterday) and the mosquitos look like flying horses.

First things first. We are going to be in the UK from the 9<sup>th</sup> of December until the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. We are currently putting together a programme of visits. We are very happy to hear from anyone who would like us to visit their church or group. Something to bear in mind is that Sunday mornings get booked up very quickly, Sunday evenings next, and in the week, we usually have more availability. So, you may be more likely to get your first choice of date if it is not a Sunday. We have also found that weekday events are often more productive, as they tend to be less formal and give more opportunity for questions and dialogue.



In due course we will have a programme of events and visits. But for anyone in the Baldock area you warmly invited to either or both of these dates:-

- Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we are preaching at the 9.30 service in St Mary's church. This will be a traditional preach as part of the Anglican communion service.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January, we are hosting an "open house" from 3pm at St Mary's Church Hall with tea and cakes etc. At 4pm-ish we will show some pictures, talk about what we are doing in Argentina, and open the floor for questions, after which people are welcome to stay and chat, and head off when it suits.



Meanwhile in San Francisco, the stuff of life and ministry keeps us moving along with its ups and downs. Martin gave a sideways look at the parable of the wedding feast from Matthew 22 the other week (photo), while last Sunday Hazel took the congregation on a walk to Emmaus from Luke 24. We both have our next preaching dates in the pipeline.



The Scout group are taking some of the older Scouts on a mountaineering trip from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> this month. We are putting the finishing touches to the organisation of this, somewhat challenged by some of Argentina's newest quirks, particularly the patchy availability of petrol. All prayers welcome.

We have also been supporting the extended family of late as Teen (now 24, what to call her? Ex-Teen? E.T.? Suggestions on a postcard) and her partner have a baby girl, born at the end of September, so we have been called on for grandparently duties, particularly looking after big brother, previously known as Baby (now 7, also needing a new alias!)

Presidential elections will be finalized here on the 19th with a runoff between the two leading candidates; Massa (left) and Milei (right). Cynicism and fatigue predominate among most people where we are. Massa is current finance minister, and people are looking at 140% inflation and the kms long queues at petrol stations last week and wondering if they want four more years of this. Milei on the other hand is too much of an anarchist for many people; waving chainsaws at his political rallies and threatening to sweep away all public institutions. He also seems to hold some prehistoric views particularly around gender roles, for example that birth control is the woman's responsibility, and absent fathers shouldn't have to pay child support unless they want to. Again, all prayers welcome.

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



Joni & Daniel

Hazel X Martin



Latin Link

