

Dear Everyone

Greetings from summer in San Francisco. We didn't manage to send out a newsletter in December. The combination of everything leading up to end of the academic year, simultaneously with the run up to Christmas, and all in silly-degrees-Celsius, was already well off the scale of demanding. Now we are in school holiday mode, Hazel has some sessions in the riding school, and some English classes, but with fewer hours than in term-time.

Photos this month are from Joni's trip "up north" in December. He spent three weeks with friends in the Anglican church, which is strong in the northern provinces here, particularly working in the indigenous communities. For the first week he was in the province of Formosa on the Paraguay border, in the Anglican seminary working with indigenous pastors from the Wichi and Toba communities. Here, he learned how to cut grass with a machete, and spent plenty of hours digging their truck out of the mud – rainy season and unpaved roads, which satisfied his 17-year-old's spirit of adventure. He was also able to participate in the seminary's first graduation ceremony, where nine indigenous pastors received their diplomas, representing significant personal sacrifice for them and their families. After that, he was two weeks in the city of Salta, again with the Anglican church. Here he particularly enjoyed the *Proyecto Compartir* – a soup-kitchen type project working with homeless and vulnerable people in Salta; he extended his time in Salta so that he could be there for their special Christmas lunch before he left. He arrived home for Christmas a bit older and wiser, highly pleased with himself, with many stories to tell and experiences to process, and is already thinking about what might be next. He still has two years left at the technical school, so he doesn't yet have to make any very big decisions.



"Son of a preacher man" or possibly "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".



Preparing "budines" – cakes, for the Proyecto Compartir Christmas lunch.

Here in San Francisco, our Scouts are gearing up for their summer camp, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> in Salsipuedes, in the Cordoba hills. Cash is in short supply, nothing new here, so this week coming will involve running around the city gathering donations in kind, particularly food, so that the cash do we have in the kitty can be designated for site costs and transport. We have some good activities planned for the week; hiking and making the most of the area, and a service project where we will join with an environmental group cleaning up part of a river. Summer camp is also an important time where we can build quality relationships with the kids over a whole week together away from our usual environments, so for those who pray, please pray for fun and safety, and that we can make the most of the opportunities to listen to each other and to be able to have lasting input into our kids' lives.

Other situations to pray for. Pray for Maia, a trans woman friend of ours. She leads a complicated life, as the grown-up child of Pentecostal pastors who have found it difficult to accept her situation. On Thursday she was found unconscious in the road having been apparently hit with a bottle. She is in an induced coma in intensive care.

Pray also for Lidia, on the leadership of our church. Two years ago, one of her sons was killed in police custody. She has recently been granted guardianship of his three

children (mum is an addict). This is the outcome that everyone wanted, but Lidia now finds herself with three primary aged children who have lived through some traumatic experiences, at an age where most people would be hoping to settle into retirement. Thank you too, to all who prayed for Martin's cataract operation. It went well, and the second eye is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup>, when Hazel is on camp, so please pray that it goes smoothly, and for Joni and Danny fending for themselves at home. Thank you for all your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.

Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel



Latin Link

