

Dear Everyone

Greetings from sloppy San Francisco where it has been raining for most of the last week, although not as much as the UK by all accounts. We are grateful for summer rains which bring the temperature down, even though they can make moving around challenging since some neighbourhoods in San Francisco do flood very quickly.



*“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.”*

*(version of Nicene creed from Anglican liturgy)*

The Latin Link international assembly was held in a Catholic retreat centre in the mountains to the east of Lima, Peru. At the front of the chapel was an amazing hanging sculpture and stained-glass window depicting Jesus’ ascension, which provided a very visual reminder and context for the talks and activities that we all participated in there during those days. It was a busy time, with a full timetable of talks, workshops, business meetings and catching up with folk who we rarely see in person in this massive continent. For all of today’s technology, there is still no substitute for meeting in person over coffee. Hazel handed over her team member-care role to someone more skilled to take it forward, and picked up some different things to think about. We appreciated, as always, the multicultural feel of the event with four main languages being used, often simultaneously, particularly in the singing. Our three young people did well. Joni found a peer group in the young folk on short-term stride placements who are mostly not much older than he is, and we hardly saw him all week. Danny surprised us by choosing to join in some of the activities for his age-group, even though we had told him it wasn’t obligatory. And BB always relishes an opportunity to experience new people and places. We had a free day at the end, so we enjoyed seeing a little bit of Lima and swimming in the Pacific Ocean. Now we are back in San Francisco and in the transition between finishing summer activities and thinking about the new school year. On Tuesday Hazel has a meeting with the leaders of the Catholic church to plan for our school support project, and on Wednesday a meeting at school when hopefully she will find out what hours she might be teaching this year. Danny is revising for his upcoming retakes – at this moment summarizing history at the kitchen table, he has five outstanding subjects of which he needs to pass three to progress to fourth year. Joni starts his seventh and final year, and BB will go into fifth grade.

In other news, Cintia (la flaca) is in on-off contact with us, and we are taking opportunities to stay in touch with her in safe ways. On Friday, Martin went to help her with transport for a sale that she was organising– buying fresh pasta products at wholesale prices to resell around her neighbourhood.

For those who pray, please remember the Moran family whose three young people are members of Hazel’s Scout group. Their father has had some long-standing mental health issues, and yesterday morning he committed suicide.



Also please pray for Don Angel, the 80-year-old father of Luis, a recovering alcoholic from church. Don Angel has used a prosthetic leg for many years following an accident. Lately his prosthesis is causing him significant pain, and we are looking for ways to help him. We have acquired some crutches from a local loan scheme, and we are applying for a wheelchair from a different charity. This has given an opening for deeper contact with the family, and Hazel was invited to the addicts’ recovery group which Luis attends (photo left). I was so impressed with this group, and by the depth of supportive fellowship between the guys. Definitely a good contact to have made.

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



*Hazel X Martin*



*Joni & Daniel*

