

Paul & Ana Hill - Santiago del Estero, Argentina -

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QUARANTINE

Walter is a Bank manager for the Federal Bank of Argentina who moved to Santiago years ago and many good Friends and decided to take a demotion to bank manager in a smaller town called Fernandes, 25 miles southeast of Santiago. A mutual acquaintance asked me to talk with him and I discovered a man with a profound thirst for God. As quarantine locked us down, I was able to keep in contact with him through a series of devotionals and as things have opened up Walter and Analia and their teen age daughter have started to attend Cabildo Church. The third Sunday in attendance he brought some friends with them to Church. To our surprise it was a family that years ago had asked us to marry them because they wanted to "bless their marriage." We had counseled them and married them with the hope of starting a small group, but they seemed to slip away. Walter and Analia have not only asked for baptism but have the Desire to help with the rural ministry and have a heart to start a church in the town they live in.

There is also excitement in the rural ministry where we have seen a burst of ownership and initiative that has taken years to develop. We not only have new people in our meetings but have started an outreach group in Hoyón which is more of a small Village in a Quichua speaking area. Vero & Mario, José and Noemí are two young couples who have been touched by the gospel and have been actively reaching out

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to friends and families in the area, Our first meeting had 20 people!

A weekly player gathering in different locations is working miracles as people are seeing the Lords answers to prayers. It's been quite dry and there was very little forage left for the animals, so rain was a big prayer concern and in the last week and a Half the Lord has opened up the skies and two good raids have brought life back to the parched land. On day I asked for player for Sara as sitting at a dese in her new Job was giving her server pain. Elpidio, probably the poorest family in the congregation who can barely read, prayed such a simple and sincere player I just broke into tears. Ever since that player Sara's back pain has greatly reduced, and she is able to work effectively.

ICELBRATING!

A year ago, we married our daughter Amy and Josías by zoom and recently was able to celebrate their marriage, three days before their first anniversary! They have such a wide circle of friends, from all parts of society but they all gathered for the celebration. I've been to many weddings but his one was truly a celebration. What also made it special is that Sara was able to be here. She came for a long visit but three days before leaving Prague she was asked for an interview. Once here she had two online interviews reorganized her plans and is now back in Prague working as an architect in an international company. We had such a wonderful time with all the kids together but were left drained with all the roller coaster of emotions that Ana and I took a few days off to our little mountain hideaway!

LEADERSHIP

One of the side effects of the long quarantine was the loneliness and isolation of local pastor. Last week end I took a small group of pastors to a leader's retreat in Buenos Aires. A wonderful time of sharing and renewal and reconnecting with people we haven't seen literally for years refreshed our hearts and our lives. A pastor from La Matanza, the largest municipality in Buenos Aires with Close to 2 million people, where poverty and corruption is everywhere and where drugs has brought an escalated wave of senseless violence, shared that the day before the retreat he had officiated his 33rd Covid funeral! The 25 hours of driving did leave we a little word out, but laughter and sharing kept us all awake!

PRAYER CONCERNS

- We praise the Lord that about 50% of the country is vaccinated and the number of infections and deaths have drastically fallen.

- Pray for the economy as inflation is high, about 4% monthly, and there is a noticeable shortage of products, especially in the supermarket. Salaries are low and high unemployment is turning things very unstable and somewhat violent.

- Pray for the educational system of Argentina that is trying

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Rain, blessed rain.

to rebound from 1 1/2 years of no classes!

- Pray for the opening of a High school that is badly needed in Hoyón. Many kids drop out because there are no resources to travel to the nearest school, a 40 km roundtrip on a dusty rural road. We are trying to do a survey and petition the government to open one there.

- Pray for the country as the political situation is very polarized and aggressive. This Sunday we have elections that will determine the majority in the senate and will deeply effect the presidential elections in 20'23.

- The country was severely isolated as only two flights a day were permitted that many airlines have left. They are just now opening flights to international travelers.

- Pray for Walter and Analia and Rodrigo and Eunice and for an opening among their circle of friends.



Them thar kids wore us out!

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