



December 22, 2022

Dear Friends and Financial Supporters:

Feliz Navidad from a very hot Argentina. This December has been the hottest on record with temperatures at the house hitting 105° F several days. On a recent trip to Tucumán, the car temperature gauge read 111° while driving (with 85% humidity). Needless to say, all of the normal Christmas ideas of snow, icicles, fireplaces, etc. seem very much out of reach.

Much has been happening here in the past few months. As of December 31st, Rod will be officially replaced as the seminary director after 30 years on the service. Ramiro Hernández is doing a great job during the last eight months of transition and will be handling things on his own for 2023. The seminary is now totally virtual and we have many students from the distance learning programs who are now studying full time. This has been a very positive change brought on by the pandemic. The largest class this past term has been the Practical Theology course which requires students to spend at least ten hours a week in service at their local church.

The La Merced church celebrated it's 52nd anniversary a few weeks ago. The original plan was to have a "golden anniversary" in 2020, but the extended quarantine made that impossible. We had close to 50 people in attendance. That was something special since the church was down to about eight people in 2015 when we were asked to help it recover. There is still much work to do, but several new, well-trained families are now moving into key positions of leadership and the future is bright.

The medical compassion ministry has been very busy the past few months. The coming year is an election year which means major budget cuts in the national health care programs as funds are diverted into political campaigns. Pray for the Sanatorio Parque hospital where Rod has taken patients for years. It was virtually bankrupted by having to care for non-paying Covid patients. During the next few weeks, the plans are to have it turned into a regional trauma center with the operating rooms totally dedicated to specialized surgeries. Many of the workers at the hospital haven't received paychecks for the past two months.



In case you haven't heard, Argentina won the World Cup this past weekend. Here in Salta, 600,000 people showed up at the central plaza. When the team was due to pass through Buenos Aires, between four and five million people clogged the streets and the players had to be evacuated by helicopter. The photos above are of people, not ants!

What does this have to do with ministry in Argentina? With the political situation being the worst since we arrived in 1991, inflation for 2022 coming in at 100%, violence increasing every day, the World Cup victory came as a great relief and helped unite the nation. The challenge we all face in the next few months is helping people come back down from the euphoria as they return to their regular routine after a month of fiesta. Many will be depressed and searching for answers that only God can give. It's a great opportunity for evangelism.

Prayer requests... In the coming months, we will be going through tremendous transitions. We plan to retire a year from now, but have much to do. Things are moving forward with the sales of properties. Rod has been meeting with legal representatives to assure that everything can be done correctly. Visits are being made to the houses we will be selling. That's part of the challenge.

Our biggest challenge has to do with our transition back to North America. We will need to buy a house (we've never done that before). Trying to do that from Argentina is complicated to say the least. Can you imagine the stress and challenge of trying to close up in Argentina and start fresh in the USA after all these years? Pray that we'll have the energy and sanity to do a good job on both ends of the hemisphere.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and financial support.

His and yours – Rod and Jackie Allen