

Jim Burnett, Paraná, Entre Ríos, Argentina. 27th January, 2025

Dear fellow helpers In Christ.

Once more I wish to thank you for your fellowship in prayers for me and also about matters so far from where you are. "Though sundered far, by faith we meet, around one common mercy seat".

One of the highlights of 2024 was a special meeting for the recognition of the first two elders, to accompany my son in law Heber in the assembly work. The assembly was the first harmonious break away from the first assembly we saw formed in Paraná. I was invited to give a suitable message for the occasion to a very full hall. It is satisfying to see the assembly pattern being carried out.

Last Sunday evening I accompanied the assembly which was the third harmonious break away from ours too just prior to the pandemic. They are still small with only about 10 in fellowship. Hard work is proving fruitful and with some present for the first time, last Sunday some 20 were present. It is a privilege to preach the gospel to the unsaved and perhaps warm the hearts of those backslidden in heart. A young to middle- aged lady whom I baptized years ago and whom they contacted was present. She has been backslidden for years. She was so happy to meet up again and had her daughter Fiana (20) with her. I learned today they were present again this Sunday. Pray for Veronica's complete restoration and for Fiana's salvation.

On Thursday 12th December the local assembly which we saw established hosted a special evening to mark the day 50 years ago when after a 22 day sea voyage we set foot as a family on Argentine soil.

Attendance was limited to family plus a couple or a brother from other assemblies who have known us most of these years. A local sister made a lovely video presentation from photos I had; even some hard copies. So, a lot of ground was covered in a short space of time. I showed her and her husband my old slide projector. They insisted I use it. I set up a few slides, and it became the centre of curiosity as to how it worked etc.

Four brethren including my sons in law Heber and Marcelo, gave testimony of their personal impressions of those years. Tito, from Posadas, where we first stayed and served with Willie and Pearl Jack, travelled 13 hours by bus to be present. He was a 13 year-old when we first met and became part of a small group of "disciples" I had. He was given a bit more time and made an impact by his ability and message.

The missionary family in Concordia made their first journey back to their commending assembly this week. In some respects because of distances their experience is similar to the foreign workers. They couldn't be with family at Christmas or New Year. Or Mabel to visit with their wee boy of 5 months whom the grandparents had not seen yet.

The problem of a five-seater car for a family of six was overcome here in Paraná by an exchange of his 2009 for a model less 2008 but a 7 seater and run on gas cylinders at a third of the cost of petrol. The difference was miraculously covered in total and yesterday we got news of their safe arrival in Jujuy NW Argentina. A two day and approximately 750 miles journey. Brother Ismael who may have gone alone by bus. Is responsible for a week long camp starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. We are in midsummer and school holiday time. They will not miss our sub-° tropical suffocating humid climate. Last week we were in the high nineties.

Everything and everybody, has to slow down and warnings given to stay in unless absolutely necessary to be out in the daytime.

Despite that I keep busy. I have now reached day 20 of the 31 day series of devotionals of up to 8 minutes each approximately. I have done this before but only audio. On this occasion they are also written and that is more demanding; requiring checking and double checking. The audio part I usually do about midnight. Even at that a few nights ago a neighbour's dog decided to have a barking session. So, it was a case of eliminate and repeat.

This week a brother asked me if I would be happy to do a month of devotionals for their Seniors group of about 120 so a fair audience. I have not yet agreed to do it. And if so, in the second half of the year God Willing due to other commitments in the local assemblies and others I wish to visit in the Province.

Your fellowship and prayers are a source of continual encouragement to me.

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen. (1 Cor 16:23-24)*

Jim Burnett