

Dear brethren and sisters in Christ

24th June 2020

First and foremost, please be assured of my gratitude for your care, fellowship and prayers.

No doubt, like yourselves we are all tired of the restrictions. After 8 weeks of never being out, on 17th May permission was given for over 70s of one hour of daily recreational activity. I have been walking as stipulated within a 500 metre radius of home within a specific time limit. A week ago strict measures were put in place again. The Lord gives grace to help and days are busy. Argentina has not been hit nearly as bad as Spain, Italy or UK but reaching the 100th day of quarantine today, we are I think world leaders!! Some think there is some political conspiracy or at least opportunism in this. Subsidies for workers, then casual workers, families and small businesses, makes each group state dependent. Christina Kirchner, Ex- President from four years ago and now Vice President always had the Chavez -Venezuelan model in mind; the world is witness to how that has turned out. She still holds these views and state dependence makes domination easier. Subsidies are being paid from an Argentina already sunk in debt, making it one of the highest risk countries in the world, causing needed foreign investors to withdraw and others driven away. It is so sad that in this potentially rich country over 30% live in poverty and another very large working sector struggle to make ends meet as hyperinflation (almost 55% in 12months) drastically erodes the peoples purchasing power.

As in all the world Assembly life has undergone great changes; most adapting to Zoom meetings which are filling a gap and satisfying present needs. Everybody longs to physically meet together but this still seems a way off yet. Consultations are many and commitments too. Last Sunday I spoke at two assemblies 200 miles apart. Please pray for those who cannot "connect" that they will be kept faithful in this difficult time. Thankfully written ministry is not affected, so my monthly contribution to Argentina's Assembly Magazine of 1500 -2000 word articles in series format on "Bible and Doctrine" continue.

On the positive side, as missionaries it is rewarding to stand back and watch believers in the assemblies formed helping each other with food, and those who don't pay rent helping those who do; a real family of God feeling. Spiritual help is paramount at this time. I have had long chats with Miguel who lost his wife Claudia (48), whose health had been fragile for a long time. They were among the first saved through Heber and Fiona's witness in their area. Claudia is a big miss in the assembly and family. She saw two teenage sons saved and baptized, now in their twenties, and also her sister. Her mother is Roman Catholic as they all were but is still not saved. Prayer for the family will be appreciated.

On Monday 15th Fiona's daughter Melissa gave birth to a baby girl Nhella (Silent H) so I have become a great-grandfather. My daughter Anne's daughter hopes to have a baby girl in August so although active and well, certain age factors are being impressed on me!!

With warmest greetings in our Glorified Lord Jesus

Jim Burnett