

Jim Burnett. Paraná, Entre Ríos, Argentina. June 17th 2021

Dear friends and fellow helpers in Christ

Thank you for having me upon your hearts and in your prayers.

Here is a wee update and some items for praise and prayer.

Last Friday it was announced that religious services can be recommenced. As assemblies we had begun to meet again in mid-January but later suspended until now.

In the three months “window” it was a joy to travel the 257 Km. to Concordia; I shared the weekend there with Nelson commended from Paraná.

We had a baptismal service on the Sunday. The brother who owned the portable swimming pool. moved and took it with him. Not a problem; Johan who was being baptised had one, not in use, so brought it along on the Saturday. It was a case of “bring your own baptistry”.

Growth is very slow in Concordia but those baptised over the past two years include three couples who decided that now, as believers, they should no longer live in common-law relationships so were married and later baptised, and added to the fellowship. We often talk about the “happy couple” but on these occasions their joy was the joy of obedience and testimony to their relatives. Please join us in prayer for workers with a teaching gift to live and work in that area.

During that “window” for meeting I had a short series in the North Assembly in Paraná. Heber and Fiona, responsible for the beginning of that new Assembly, have seen the Lord’s hand in blessing. There is a special “feel” about a first-generation assembly and a special joy to teach the believers. Of the number present, limited to 30, we worked out that 22 were under 30 years of age.

I have been able to help several times in the young assembly in Encarnación, Paraguay, which meets in a home in very cramped conditions. The restrictions of the Covid Pandemia have not deterred the believers from making excellent progress in the hall which literally they are building. Recent pictures could be from Nehemiah’s day with all involved; children carrying bricks, women handing those up to the men who are building. It is a privilege to have fellowship with them in this project. I have taken Zoom meetings there, but long to visit them again as well as the assemblies in Posadas on the Argentine side of the River Paraná.

The Province of Santa Fe has the highest percentage of Covid cases in the country. My daughter Anne lives there in the City of Rosario; of the

six adults in the family five contracted the illness, including my daughter Anne. All are now recovered and my grandson Brian is now back working as a Doctor in ICU. A national worker Gustavo Sanchez and his wife Christina also in Rosario were both hospitalised with the virus. His wife Christina had other health issues and was called home to be with the Lord. She would be mid-fifties. It was so sad for Gustavo. No goodbyes, no meeting or funeral; just a burial. He is now at home with some oxygen support. He says he doesn't need a thing; only prayers. His son and daughter and his assembly are supporting him in every possible way.

Here in Paraná all the family are well. Last Saturday, I got my second vaccine. There has been a three month wait between them so trust it is still effective.

Thank you for being part of all I do. I am deeply thankful for your support and prayers.

With warmest greetings in our Glorified Lord Jesus

Jim Burnett