



George Herbert, *Love*

*Let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the
blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my
meat:
So I did sit and eat.*

Rowan Williams in his recent book *Tokens of Trust* calls this poem by George Herbert 'the greatest Christian poem in the English language'. He goes on to say that 'the whole gospel is there, the realism about shame and guilt, the equal, heartbreaking realism about love overcoming every obstacle of self-hate, self-doubt and fear; the monosyllabic simplicity of the end. All there is to do is to sit down with him at his table, just as Zacchaeus and Matthew and Magdalene and Peter knew.' We are reminded that the cross is the center of our faith because there Jesus completed all the work that his Father had sent him to do and like the prodigal son we can be restored through Jesus to the presence of God where we sit down and eat with Him.

Ellelein and I are so aware of God's grace in our lives over these last three years here and are very thankful of all the new

friendships that we have made, the small ways that we have been able to serve him and all that we have learnt at His hand.

We are now looking forward to enjoying friendship with

you again; sitting down over a curry, fish and chips or ploughman's lunch with a good pint of beer or cider in our hands- a foretaste of the heavenly banquet that awaits us in the presence of our beloved Lord!!



Prayer letter

July 2008



In this prayer letter we'll cut down on the words and use pictures to show you a typical working day for me:



7:50 Pick up Pato who lives nearby to go to leaders meeting

8:30-10:00 Leader's bible study, the passage is preached 10 days later



Leader's of the Anglican churches in the fifth region, spot the rose amongst thorns

10:00-11:00 meet with Alejandro Lara, who's my spiritual director





11:05 Avoid the rushing traffic in the center of Viña
 11:10 Public notary doing a 'tramite'
 11:15 Crossing Viña's dried up river/public car park

11:00-12:00 On Tuesdays I also take advantage of being in Viña to do practical tasks. On this Tuesday I went to the bank and to the chemist to get some medicines for the kids. I popped into the *Cruzada*, a very nice Christian bookshop



whose owners are not only very friendly but knowledgeable. I usually try to have a working lunch with a one of our tutors or member of the youth group.

13:30-15:30 On this Tuesday I had lunch with Cecilia Gravert who will be looking after all the Level II courses whilst I am on furlough. We had a very good planning session and handover.



12:15-13:15 Every other Tuesday I try and squeeze a gym session in.

Back up in Gómez on Tuesday afternoons Ellelein and I have been leading the woman's group at church through Philipians - teaching on alternative weeks.

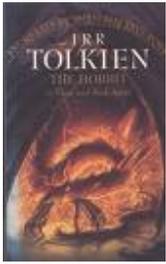


16:00-17:30 Today Ellelein gives the talk whilst I look after the boys.



18:00-22:00 Preachers meeting followed this Tuesday by our monthly leader's meeting where I led a discussion on fasting and we shared (concerns, not food unfortunately) and prayed together.





Today David and I finished reading the Hobbit together and these words seemed particularly apt as we finish this first leg of our Latin American adventure:

‘As all things come to an end, even this story, a day came at last when they were in sight of the country, where Bilbo had been born and bred, where the shapes of the land and of the trees were as well known to him as his hands and toes. Coming to a rise he could see his own Hill (Harrow on the Hill?) in the distance, and he stopped suddenly and said:

*Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea:
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains in the moon
Roads go ever ever on
Under cloud and under star,
Yet feet that wandering have gone
Turn at last to home afar.
Eyes that fire and sword have seen
And horror in the halls of stone
Look at last on meadows green
And trees and hills they long have known.*

Gandalf looked at him. ‘My dear Bilbo!’ he said. ‘Something is the matter with you! You are not the hobbit that you were.’

Curious Note

While discussing some funny names with Ellelein we came across ‘Damned’. The man who was known by that name preferred to be known as Nicholas Barbon, and it’s under that name that he founded London’s first fire insurance company and fire brigade.

I did a bit of research on this and he was actually called: **Nicholas Unless-Jesus-Christ-Had-Died-For-Thee-Thou-Hadst-Been-Damned Barbon**. Can you believe it?! Something to consider for our next child...? (wishful thinking says E!)

News from Chile

The UK isn’t the only place where prices have increased recently. Much food from the market has increased 100% since we’ve been here and diesel has increased by 66% in the 18 months since the Skoda was bought! This has affected the poorer parts of society and there has been much more begging on the streets and at traffic lights which was previously fairly rare in Chile.



- For all God’s faithfulness over the last 3 years and your support and prayer – we couldn’t have done it without you!
- Thanks for the amazing provision of a house in Hatch End for our furlough and being able to keep our house here paying only a minimum amount of money whilst we’re away.

thanksgiving

Please pray for

For all the things we need to do to wrap things up here (esp E’s visa), a safe flight home- and that we might have a great time with you all sharing what God has been doing in your lives and in ours.

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