



Prayer Requests and News from
CMS Latin Partner Hugo Vergara
Northern Argentina

September 2014

Dear Friends,

We send warmest Greetings from Salta to all our supporters and Friends in the UK. We are thankful to the churches who invited us to visit them this spring. This made such an impact on our ministry for ourselves and for all the young people who were able to join us on this trip as well as financially. It was such a privilege to share with you all on our first mission visit.

At the moment, the high inflation we are experiencing in Argentina is somewhat depressing. Although our salaries have been increased, we are finding it more and more difficult to meet everyday expenses. This has meant the diocese making readjustments and many of our stipends have been cut, including mine. We thank God that the local churches are able to take on the financial commitment. In a way, such a crisis always gives the opportunity for people to rise to the challenge. It may well be that this will mean that the congregations assume responsibility and enable us to be self-supporting.

Here is more news and some prayer requests:

- Please pray for this positive outcome and that we will be able to continue serving the Lord whatever the circumstances. We are very aware that we serve God and not an institution.
- The San Andres church ministries are growing. Last month we held a very positive EJE (Youth Encounter in the Spirit) weekend. We saw how leadership consolidated and strengthened. In addition, lots of new young people are coming along.
- Thursdays are Gimnasio training day. The young people study Timothy and the adults are looking at Exodus.
- We recently held an EME (women's weekend) which really impacted on not only San Andres but also all the women from Tucuman who joined us. They are now planning their own weekend.
- Techy and I are focussing special attention on families. Each month we have a couples gathering, and this is proving to be a great blessing for everyone involved.
- Techy is doing pastoral work with marginalised women in Grand Bourg (a neighbourhood of Salta) and the ministry is growing in a wonderful way.
- Our annual retreat is in two weeks' time. This is key for the ongoing commitment of the congregation. We are very pleased to have Bishop Henry Scriven coming to do

the teaching. We ask you to pray for good participation from all the members of San Andres church. Also please pray that the Lord will touch many and that with Bishop Henry's visit we will be able to renew our vision and mission focus.

- We now have two young people doing mission service: Jonathan Quiroga is 23 and currently at Rydall Hall, Carlisle. He will be there for a year. Paula Arenas is 19 and she is serving indigenous and criollo communities in Ingeniero Juarez. Please pray for them both. We are hoping to send many young people to different places to serve in the Lord's work.
- The Men's ministry is still growing and there is real commitment among those attending.
- We have just spent a weekend in Ingeniero Juarez starting a new Marriage Alpha course. Thirteen couples attended, and one of them gave their lives to the Lord. It was wonderful to see the interest in continuing with this ministry.
- I am still travelling regularly to Tucuman (alternating with Hans) for pastoral support for the church leadership. There are four very committed leaders and we are seeing spiritual revival. Many new people are attending church, including some former members. One couple came back with their teenage children after being away for 10 years. Please pray for them - Oscar, and Silvia Alvarado are the parents and they have a real desire to serve.
- We are putting finishing touches to a multi-use meeting room. It will be for meetings of students', interdenominational leaders' and other activities and will help in our need to be self-supporting.
- San Pablo mission point in the Ceferino neighbourhood still provides pastoral and social care in spite of difficulties, in an area of great deprivation. Please pray for the leadership; for Marta Avila and Paul Smith with the children, and for Aroldo Suarez working with youngsters, some dealing with addictions. This is a hard task but many young people are turning up at the church in need of help.

Please continue to pray for our pastoral teams. At San Andres: Hans and Priscilla, Flavia and Daniel, Graciela Iovina and ourselves. Our desire and aim is that the church will be strong and will grow both numerically and in excellence. We are seeing much fruit and the powerful hand of the Lord moving. God is great and powerful and always acts in power. Psalm 46 says 'be still and know that I AM GOD.'

Hugo and Techy Vergara

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