



# Step report

## Argentina & Bolivia



The team with Dany and Flavia at orientation in Salta.

### Welcome to our first report!

Our time in Argentina has seen us through some challenging, but extremely exciting and encouraging times already. We are so grateful for all the support we've received from our churches back in the UK, and the church here in Tartagal.

## What we we've been up to

On Monday evening (9th March) we were all in Buenos Aires after arriving at different times. Some of us even went to a nearby park and out for dinner. The following morning, we made our way to the airport to fly up north to the city of Salta, where we were warmly welcomed by our short-term coordinators Dany and Flavia.

The next few days were spent doing some in-country orientation with them, and they taught us how to embrace Argentinian culture. Latin Link Striders Eden and Hannah were also very kind to us in helping us settle in to the Argentinian way of life. We had some lovely meals out, trying local food and drink such as empanadas, milanesa and mate.

A couple of highlights for the team would include a hike up San Bernardo Hill with Hannah, Eden, Liam and Daniel (Salta short-term missionaries), and a friendly weekly football game that Eden helps organise with some people from different churches.

It was really interesting to meet Christians our age from a completely different cultural background.



# Starting out in Tartagal

On Thursday we travelled five hours out of the city to Tartagal. We were shown the place we will be staying for the duration of our time here, and met the pastor of the church, Pastor Jorge, and Danny's brother, Marco, who told us about how excited the church was for us to be working with them.

The following morning, we visited the church - Asamblea de Dios (Tartagal) and Pastor Jorge showed us what exactly our construction project would consist of. They are needing to extend the church building to accommodate everyone, due to the increase in congregational numbers since the pandemic. We are going to be knocking down a wall upstairs, to create an extra viewing gallery.

On Saturday we helped at the church as they prepared meals to sell, which was really good fun. In the afternoon we went to the church kids clubs, where we introduced ourselves, taught them a song, and played a game with them. Later in the evening we attended the young adults group at the church. It was their first week back after the summer break.

Sunday was our first church service in the evening. People were so friendly and appreciative of us and were so excited to see how God would work through us in the coming weeks.

On Monday, we started our work at the church accompanied by builders Daniel and Marcos and a few other volunteers from the church. For the first couple of days, we were working on sanding and painting some iron beams, and then creating a frame for the roof.

On Monday we also had three hours of first aid training at the church in the evening. Poor Eden did very well translating for us for so long! Afterwards we went out for dinner and said our farewells to Dany, Flavia, their daughter Sofi, Hannah and Eden before they headed back to Salta. We will hopefully see them again in a few weeks though.



our building site



Getting a frame for the roof ready



Ready to serve!

## Some funny moments

- Calum accidentally buying 3kg of unknown fish
- Dancing with the builders at the construction site
- Fun conversations with Daniel the builder
- Marco the builder bringing Tereré for everyone while they worked
- Every decision made at the building site is debated for about 10 minutes, with everyone thinking their plan is the best.

## Reflections and observations

- The people are so friendly and welcoming. They love human interaction and don't seem to take life too seriously, they just take things as they come. As a result it's taking a bit of time to get used to plans being created or changing at the last minute.
- We've seen God working with the younger generation at the church, the young adults were so keen to talk about God.
- The church culture is very inclusive and supportive. They treat us with kindness, like family; inviting us to lots of fun events and activities.
- Kids get picked up from school on motorbikes, and it isn't uncommon to see a whole family on 1 motorbike!
- Argentinian people love cleaning their floors!
- It's fun trying to decide whether to go for a kiss on the cheek or a handshake sometimes!



Learning to prep local food



Working hard



At church

## Praise and prayer points

- Praise that we have begun to build relationships already, despite the language barrier, but please pray that we have patience to continue learning more Spanish.
- Praise God for helpful team daily devotionals.
- Prayer for energy and strength as we continue with the project while showing a good example of Christ's love towards others.
- Prayer for strengthening and continuing good relationships within the team and with the church community. Please pray that this will continue.

## Wholehearted mission

Our verse of the year is from Colossians 3:23, ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”*** Our ‘whatever’ can only happen because of your support. Please consider donating to help keep us serving: [www.latinlink.org.uk/donate](http://www.latinlink.org.uk/donate)