

Greetings from sunny Spring in San Francisco. Several people have asked me (Hazel) about what will change now I finally have my teaching qualification recognised. The short answer is for now at least, maybe



not very much. When I started all this, a decade ago, we were still finding our feet in San Francisco, and I was looking at jobs to apply for in special education. Ten years on, many things have changed, and the last couple of years it has felt like Magnus Magnusson; "I've started so I'll finish." That said, having the certificate in hand means I could return to plan A at any point in the future, and in the meantime there are some other possible implications:-

One; my work with Disabled people at the riding school. At present "Riding for the Disabled" is totally informal in Argentina. Anyone with a horse can set themselves up. However, moves are afoot to try and get health-care providers to fund therapeutic horse-riding, which would almost definitely mean an increase in formalisation, so being certified in something may well become helpful. My colleague at the riding school is a qualified equestrian instructor, and the fact that we are now both certified professionals should give us a head start if/when we have to affiliate ourselves somewhere as a formal entity.

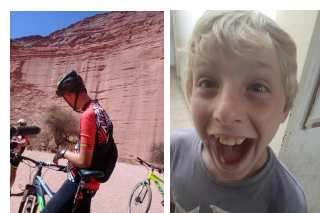
Two; public education in Argentina essentially runs on two levels; the opaque and labyrinthine official system, characterised by eye-watering facts such as that for every teacher in a classroom, there are seven people drawing a teachers salary; and underneath said monolith, the informal system of approximately legal maneuvering carried out by individual schools in order actually to be able to provide an education to their pupils. It is in this more spontaneous environment where I am working to build links with Danny's school, which is a small and needy establishment in a socially challenging housing estate, and now that I "exist" as a professional, this may be an enabler in expanding and deepening what I can do there.

At church we both continue preaching and teaching, and Martin is also resident technical geek. Being of pentecostal origins, a lectionary would be considered an anathema here. Sometimes we find this liberating, and sometimes it would just be helpful to have some sort of structure as a starting point. The tendency is also for each preacher, us included, to re-tread their favourite paths, both in terms of Bible passages and themes expounded. So Hazel decided that she needed to get to know the gospel of Luke better, and she is using her reading to take the congregation on an approximately organised meander through the book, while Martin often picks up and expands on ideas that have arisen in Hazel's passages. The congregation seem to like what we are doing, we certainly feel appreciated there. How far that is a good thing may be moot point, but it means that we can take opportunities to speak into situations, and to feel that people are listening as we teach.



And finally for this month, we are once again building a relationship with the youth residence, where our *Teen* and *Flaca* used to live. We have just acquired a Scout from there, a young man with learning difficulties and a history of sexual abuse by his father. The province of Cordoba's response is to prescribe a bunch of psychiatric meds and send him to live in the residencia. It would take some pages to unpack the issues involved here, do ask if you want to know more, but the important part for us right now is that he really wanted to join the Scouts, and he went on his first camp with us last weekend. Thank you for reading, and for your ongoing prayers and support. Have a good month.

Latin Link  Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

