

Dear Everyone,

Greetings from lockdown in San Francisco. Along with many other countries in the Global South, Argentina's government has responded to the arrival of Covid19 with a swift hard lockdown, designed to slow the spread of the disease and prevent fragile health systems from becoming overwhelmed.

**Corvid19 Timeline in Argentina**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March Coronavirus detected in Argentina.**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March first death confirmed.**  
**14<sup>th</sup> March social gatherings and sporting events banned.**  
**16<sup>th</sup> March education system closed.**  
**20<sup>th</sup> March whole country locked down except health care, food shops, pharmacies and a few other key services.**  
**4<sup>th</sup> April 1451 confirmed cases, and 44 deceased.**

Between 8am and 6pm people are allowed out to do essential food shopping. From 6pm there is a curfew and the streets are patrolled by packs of pólíce and gendarmes who have big guns but are generally polite and friendly, and municipal employees who are unarmed but suffer from "my little moment of power" syndrome. By and large people around us are respecting the situation and there is a high level of support for the action that the government has taken – especially when they see the news reports from northern hemisphere countries. Although cases here are creeping up, the biggest issue at the moment for people is financial. Many people are self employed or vulnerably employed, so not being able to work means that they don't get paid and not many people

have savings to fall back on. The government has just given a first round of help to some of the hardest hit, but at something like the equivalent of £110 per family, clearly it isn't going to go very far. Churches are contributing food parcels and the like, and there are a lot of informal community initiatives, like our bakery round the corner which is putting just-in-date products on a table with a sign saying, "take it if you need it". Church, like in much of the rest of the world, has gone online, mostly via Youtube, with ongoing contact via Whatsapp groups, which have been the communication of choice here for the last several years anyway; not everyone has a computer at home, but most people do have access to a smart phone.



We in our extended household are finding ways to deal with the new "normal". In the mornings we are home-schooling. Joni locates his assignments on his school website, and Hazel is working with Danny, completing tasks set by his teacher, and filling in gaps in areas where he is behind. The photo is a model of a filter for contaminated water that we made the other day – science assignment to invent something to solve a problem associated with rubbish. We had a good, wet time testing and modifying it. In the afternoons we are finding ways to entertain ourselves with crafts, cooking and outdoor activities on the

patio. Danny particularly likes climbing on the roof and pretending to be an extreme parkour runner! The blog can be found at [www.frostmartinhazel.org](http://www.frostmartinhazel.org) it was updated a couple of times in March and will be again soon. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support. We are praying for you too, and especially that the church would be a prophetic voice to the world in these confusing and uncertain times.

Love From

Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link 

