

Faithy In Argentina!

"The hour is NOW for Argentina!—& one of the keys unlocking the door is Music!"

From Faith & Juan:

Dearest Dad, Maria & Peter, GBYI GINI WLYSM & HAVE KEPT YOU IN OUR PRAYERS earnestly this week, for the Lord to continue to rebuke the Enemy & strengthen & encourage you in all your great task for Him & us. TYLI—Especially at this time when you are putting such important lessons for the world on video concerning the End-time message! We had a very good united prayer for you at Sunday Fellowship in Argentina & we are expecting a miracle for His protection against all the attacks of the Enemy! PTL! He's never failed us in all of His good promises, TYJI!

PASSPORT STOLEN!

(FAITH:) WE HAD A FEW ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY ourselves, but TTL He protected us. While walking down the main walking street of Buenos Aires, called Calle Florida, returning to our hotel where Juan was busy working on the Video of Brasil, having bought a little lunch at a hamburger stand, someone picked my pocketbook! It was very crowded at lunch hour & they probably watched me change a rather large bill to buy the hamburgers & then followed me. They also probably saw that both my hands were full & that my purse was just hanging from my shoulder. So apparently they found it quite easy in the crowd to just slip my wallet (which is actually a passport holder) out of my purse, with passport inside, Eurochecks & card & some cash.

WE DIDN'T DISCOVER IT UNTIL A FEW HOURS LATER at the hotel & then went immediately & reported it to the police who didn't seem to think it unusual at all. In fact they said it was quite common for tourists to get hit by pick-pockets on

Calle Florida, LHMI.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, especially being out alone & after seeing some funny characters standing in the hamburger joint watching as I changed that large bill. We went to the place later to ask if they thought it could have been stolen there before I ever walked out of the place. They told us that the same day two boys had been caught inside the place stealing! It's quite common, they said, & that these boys just sit around there all day just watching for a chance, & there's just nothing they can do about it as they don't know who all of them are etc. Besides the lessons we learned concerning being more mindful to watch our purse more carefully & not to take our passport out of the room etc.—

WE FELT THAT PERHAPS SOME GOOD DID COME OUT OF ITS BEING STOLEN. Coming into Argentina the customs official had to unfold all the inserted extra pages looking for my Argentine visa & was curious about so many stamps from all over the world (over 4 years of travel). In Lima I had asked the embassy if I could get a new one because it was full of stamps, but they had said we couldn't until it expired in 1982.

SO NOW I WAS ABLE TO GET A NEW PASSPORT, A REAL VICTORY! They did give me a bit of a hassle tho', a little taste perhaps of the new administration & what's to come in the very near future! She said, "Pretty soon you won't be able to travel abroad anymore, if this happens again to you!"

PERHAPS IT WAS GOOD TO GET A NEW ONE NOW before Reagan's people get a firm hold on everything, including embassies abroad! At first we were so discouraged & down-hearted a-

bout it, just having arrived in Argentina. But then after seeing the way things seem to be tightening up we were very thankful to be getting a new one now instead of next year! PTL!—And with the war coming & all, who knows if we could even get one then?

THERE WAS QUITE A STARTLING NOTICE POSTED IN THE EMBASSY on the bulletin board, also, warning all Americans not to go to the Middle East at this time as it is too unstable, & then proceeded to name all the countries. Really seems they are preparing for something soon! LHU to be ready & in safer countries of refuge, & to help you by locating the best ones!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS!

UPON ARRIVING IN B.A. FROM BRASIL, OUR FIRST IMPRESSION WAS A GOOD ONE. In fact, it was quite a relief to be where the spirit of the place is so much cleaner & the people so distinguished looking. No blacks anywhere & the men looking like men instead of being gays like so many we saw in Sao Paulo & Rio!

YOU FEEL IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVING IN ARGENTINA THAT IT'S NOT SO TERRIBLY CORRUPTED like those big cities in Brasil.—A much cleaner & lighter atmosphere. In Brasil right now the most devilish samba music performed by sodomites is the craze, & sodomy is open & rampant in the streets, especially at Carnival time.

IN BRASIL IT HAS BECOME THE "IN" THING, especially amongst the high-class youth, to belong to samba "schools" & to emerge themselves in the evil spirit of samba music & somewhat reject outside music. There is, of course, still some sweet Brazilian music, love songs etc.,

but samba records are what's selling like crazy now in Brasil. This is what the youth are into, very nationalistically, instead of like in years past when our music was a big hit.

BUT WE DID SEE IN BRASIL AMIDST ALL THIS DARKNESS that has taken over, there is still need of a great light, as we saw many hungry sheep praying to receive the Lord at their Holy Ghost Service there in Sao Paulo & receiving the Letters eagerly. So GB Tiago & Tabita & our precious Family who are trying to be a light in the midst of real darkness, as they faithfully give the Word! We were actually surprised at the great amount of freedom they still have there (in Sao Paulo) to do just about everything with no persecution at all. Rio, which is where they hounded us before, is much darker also & I don't believe the Family there feels this same freedom yet to witness openly.

LIVING CONDITIONS!

ONE THING THAT DID SURPRISE US ABOUT BRASIL WAS THE CAMPING POSSIBILITIES & how cheap things were! After seeing this & the beautiful campground we were actually considering it as a possible refuge for MWM. The only problem is visas, unless you are able to get residency before you come which is what one newly arriving family from the U.S. just did.

THEY HAD BEEN IN BRASIL BEFORE & had a baby, so they were able to apply for permanent residency in the U.S. before coming back, & got it. They were then allowed to bring in all their household stuff & music equipment (for a studio in SP to record for MWM), etc. Interesting, because Jeremy has a Brazilian in his family (born there), little Maresha.

WITHOUT THIS RESIDENCY YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY EVERY 3 MONTHS to renew your tourist visa, &

they say it's getting tighter at the border with Uruguay. All in all, Brasil seemed like a land of plenty, with food being abundant & cheap & housing fairly cheap as well, even in the major cities, & big houses too.

ARGENTINA, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS QUITE EXPENSIVE, both in food & housing. But we just heard yesterday from our local Family that a big change in the economy is coming to reverse the inflated peso, where it is now worth much more than the dollar, making it very cheap for Argentines to travel to the U.S. & shop, or even Europe! They say it's cheaper for them to go there on an excursion holiday than to their own Mar del Plata for their vacation?!

And we found it to be true, with very cheap excursions & fairly frequent flights. Amazing! OF COURSE, IF YOU WORK HERE & EARN PESOS you can live here without the prices bothering you, like our Argentine music group does. They are all 3 Americans, with wives & children, & they have permanent residency here, which they said is very easy to get almost immediately here if you have the required papers, birth certificate, & a clean bill of health.

THEY ARE REALLY WELCOMING AMERICANS & EUROPEANS RIGHT NOW in Argentina & encouraging permanent residency. On top of that, they only want to hear English music imported from the U.S., so our boys who just released a single of their own songs in English, make \$600 nightly! They are quite famous here, having played in the best clubs to the elite youth, & their songs are heard daily on radio!

ANYTHING FROM THE U.S., MUSICALLY, COULD SUCCEED right now, even tho' not so professional, so hungry are the Argentines for English music! Much different from Brasil! Even big-name Argentinean mu-

sic groups are practically starving right now because they don't sing in English! It's no wonder our boys, Pethuel, Jubal & Obed, have become a big success & make so much money.

THEY HAVE A VERY NICE 4-BEDROOM HOUSE in the suburbs of Buenos Aires, with big fireplace, for \$1500 monthly where they all live together, 3 couples & 8 children. They invited us to a delicious dinner at their home & we got to really share the vision for MWM & how they could help by setting up a studio & recording center here to record for MWM.

THERE IS A LOT OF LOCAL TALENT here, including a band of Argentinean nationals who by some miracle are playing in the best clubs too, & in Spanish! Jubal & his group have offered their services in any way to help, including support for Spanish MWM (he is the one who donated 500 SF for the rent of the conference room, GBTI), or for English MWM if it moves here.

SO THE MORE WE HEARD ABOUT HOW EASY IT IS FOR FOREIGN MUSICIANS to support themselves here plus get residency, Argentina began to look like a good possibility for MWM as a new home, in fact for any Home because of the extremely easy residency. There would be no visa problem as in Brasil for the long-term.

WE KEPT GETTING THE PARALLEL in the story of the spies who went in to check it out & reported "Giants in the Land" every time we'd look at the prices here, hal! But the Lord was able to give them that land anyway for their refuge & inheritance. Argentina is definitely very potential as a refuge. In case MWM needed to flee Greece in a hurry, the essential people could come here & continue working in a ready-made studio uninterrupted!—So foreigners are really the "in thing" right now in Argentina, TTL!

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP!

WE HAD TWO BEAUTIFUL DAYS OF VIDEOS & FELLOWSHIP on Saturday & Sunday with the Argentinean Family! Rafael, who is the acting VS (on his own initiative) with another precious brother Jose Luis (both Argentineans) provisioned a Swedish Church for Saturday & coordinated getting everyone together, GBTI!

IT WAS THE FIRST GET-TOGETHER OF ALL THE F. IN ARGENTINA IN ABOUT 6 YEARS! And did they enjoy it! They sang & sang! And then oohed & ahhed over the videos, especially Kid Power! And a church like this was the perfect place for it, with even the Pastor who is Hungarian quite thrilled to have so many young people & so much live music! Hal!

FOR THE NEXT DAY THE BOYS LOOKED FOR THE BEST HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM & found it right under the nose of the Governor's Palace, hal! Safest place in town! This one we had to pay for, but it turned out to be even more private than the church, for our special communion, prayer & songs of the Spirit where the Lord really broke everyone including all the musicians, & they all renewed their dedication to Him & His music & work of spreading our message via Spanish MWM! They realised during these days together that they had much more to do for the Lord with the talents He's given them, & that they were pretty deep into the System & that the Lord was calling them once again, TYJI!

WE DON'T KNOW WHY WE HADN'T HEARD ABOUT THIS VERY TALENTED ARGENTINIAN NATIONAL MUSIC GROUP, as they are reporting to the Spanish LIMI? They are the most talented Latin group we have seen so far & very professional, singing mostly their



Samuel & Christina, Argentinean nationals—coming your way soon, via Video!

own compositions, which is one reason they play in the best clubs (city-father-type places). They are one of the very few Spanish singing groups making it now in Argentina! Must be the Lord!

BUT THEY ARE READY TO FORSAKE ALL TO HELP MWM & feel they need to leave Argentina to do it. But we told them to keep faithful in their ministry here & to record their music with the other American group when they get their studio built, & we will see what the Lord wants. But we suggested they could get their papers in order & see if visas are possible in the event that some of them would need to travel to PR to record.

IT SEEMS THE HOUR IS NOW FOR ARGENTINA!—And one of the keys unlocking the door is music! It seems so ripe & receptive & unharvested, TTL! And certainly anyone could be lost as a unit in this large city & go quite unnoticed.—And supplies are plentiful. More on this later. A beautiful video is coming, Love, Faithy.

MORE ON LIVING CONDITIONS!

(JUAN:) After checking into our hotel we took a walk. Buenos Aires is one of the most pleasant places that I personally know to take walks. We went down to Calle Florida which is the main shopping street in downtown BA. It is just a walking street—no cars allowed—& runs for about 15 blocks!

THIS IS WHEN WE HAD OUR FIRST SHOCK!—PRICES! As we walked we noticed it was almost impossible to find a dress for less than 150,000 pesos (US \$75)! Then we came to a TV & Video store & almost fainted when we saw a Hitachi TV just like the one we bought for SF 1,000, selling for SF3,600! And then a Panasonic Video (NTSC, Secam & PAL) selling for SF 18,000! Gulp! Then we went to the movies as we felt a need to relax & found it costs SF10 per adult on weekdays & SF12 on weekends! Getting a bite to eat we noticed food prices are as high as in Switzerland, which

is very high for Argentina! BUT PTL, ONCE WE GOT OVER THESE "GIANTS IN THE LAND" & saw the people & the potential that this country has to offer, we were so happy & inspired to be there! (It just shows that the people are rich & they have a very good strong economy & currency.—Dad.)

VIDEOS: Here I would like to mention that altho' Argentina has the PAL system it is a special PAL-N system which only Argentina has! Our PAL TV does not work in Argentina. You only get a black & white image, but no sound or color! They can fix the sound by putting a special transformer in your TV, but not the color. That night we had dinner with Rafael & later Jose Luis joined us too!

IN RESPECT TO CAMPING, it is very expensive as it is something very new in Argentina & only the rich can afford to do it, so prices are high.—Not only when it comes to campgrounds but also for camping gear & equipment. Vehicles are almost too incredible to believe the prices they charge! You pay as high as U.S.\$25,000 for a little Renault 8 or a Fiat 125.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS VERY GOOD & this is what the Family here mainly uses. There is a very good train service & also bus & even taxis, altho' they are very expensive.

HOUSING: Rents for a 4-5 bedroom house, furnished & in a nice neighbourhood where foreigners are not seen as weirdos start at around US\$3-5,000! They are quite easy to get as the prices are so high that not too many people can afford them! But on the other hand the owners won't rent them for less as they do not seem to be in desperate need of money. Usually the owner wants a 2-month deposit plus the first 2 rents in advance. Also since most of the houses are rented by special renting places, the renting place gets

the equivalent of one month's rent!

BUT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE, as one family here rented a beautiful furnished home of 4 bedrooms for U.S.\$1,500 a month as they offered to fix it up & are doing so. We've heard that houses outside the main area of Buenos Aires a few miles away are considerably cheaper & houses are more available. For example, a home in Mar del Plata which has 7 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms plus all the other rooms such as dining room etc. goes for around U.S.\$700, but you can only rent it for the winter.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP!

THAT NIGHT WE MET WITH A COUPLE NAMED SIMEON & TARAH who had just arrived from Lima, Peru. Since they've been here they've been trying to FF, which they say is very fruitful & many souls get saved, plus it pays. She was mentioning that it is quite different to FF here than in Asia as men are much more forward & are more on the attack, hal!—Those volatile Latins! This couple seems to really like it here & feel that there is great potential but that brethren who come here need to know more about the country & its people before coming as they might be in for a shock if they don't! (To find out how high-class it is—intelligent & well-educated?—Ed.)

AT THE MEETING WE WERE 47 ADULTS WITH 19 CHILDREN, some of whom had never met each other. Actually, everyone was quite shocked to see how many people there were! First we sang & fellowshiped & then played them the videos of MWM & the Family in Europe.

THEY ALL FLIPPED AT THE VIDEOS, some were crying & everyone kept coming up to us to thank you, Dad & Maria, for sending us here with such beautiful videos. They were all so touched when Faithy shared

with them the testimony of how we had not planned to visit Argentina but that you had called us on the phone & asked us to visit & to give them your love & to encourage them to keep up the good work! Also that night both bands played for all the Family. It was really beautiful & inspiring for all of us, TYJI! SUNDAY WE HAD A BEAUTIFUL FELLOWSHIP meeting in which we had communion & prayer & asked the Lord for more unity & fellowship & for wisdom, as Argentina is a closed country & we need to be careful about our security.

WE PLAYED THE TAPE ABOUT "LITTLE PEOPLE"

which made many people cry. It was really touching for all as this area certainly needs that sample. In the past they had dandy bad examples with Cory, JT, Alexander & even Poor Shaul was not too good of a sample. So for them to hear Dad himself & the love he has for all the little ones was so inspiring. Many mentioned how it had changed their lives, TYJI! You have a super-beautiful Family here, dear Dad & Maria! They really love you!

ON MARCH 18TH WE HAD A FINAL MEETING with some people & discussed some very interesting points about what is happening with the actual economy & the change that might happen when the new Government takes over on March 29th.

IT SEEMS THAT THE PESO IS GOING TO BE DEVALUED TO ITS REAL VALUE which is about 3 times more in relation to the U.S. dollar, which will make it very cheap for those who earn their money in dollars! We thought that the Lord might just do that to help us! People are buying dollars like mad in the Casa de Cambio because everyone feels that the new Government is going to do that to bring the economy back to its real value!—Much love forever in Jesus & David.—Juan.