

BUENA ONDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF PROJECTS ABROAD ARGENTINA



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Prayer

I asked God to take away my habit.
God said, No.
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, No.
His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, No.
Patience is a byproduct of tribulations;
it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, No.
I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, No.
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said, No.
You must grow on your own! ,
but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said, No.
I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.
God said...Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

Un abrazo a todos!

Guillermo Cogorno
Country Director



PROJECT UPDATES

TEACHING VIDEO!

Teaching volunteer Genevieve Molloy, from Ireland, did a 2 month teaching project at the Espiritu Santo School in Rio Ceballos. In the following video she shares some valuable advice with future volunteers – take a look! <http://bit.ly/15NLmOB>



WELCOME LUAN!

In April we welcomed the youngest member to our Projects Abroad family! On April 29th Volunteer Manager Inés and her husband Jean welcomed a beautiful and healthy baby boy named Luan to the world. Congratulations Inés and Jean!!



MEET THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR!

Before arriving to Argentina, meet our Country Director, Guillermo Cogorno, and learn a bit more about Projects Abroad Argentina! The best idea is to come check it out for yourself! <http://bit.ly/12XvRoN>

DONATIONS TO IMPROVE OUR PLACEMENTS!

In the month of May, Projects Abroad made two large donations to two of the care placements we work at. A new washing machine was purchased for the Eva Peron orphanage. The staff had been working with a very old machine that was breaking down more often than washing so in mid-May a brand new washing machine was purchased and delivered to the house! This will make it much easier for the staff to clean the clothes, linens and towels of the 15+ kids that live in the house!



Also in the Copa de Leche care placement, Projects Abroad purchased the materials needed to construct a brick oven at the placement. The oven will be used to make bread, pizza, and other snacks for the 20+ children that come from the surrounding neighborhood for a daily snack and cup of juice. We also purchased the plastic polycarbonate sheets that will cover the windows of the Copa de Leche. They have been missing/broken for quite some time now, and the new windows will help keep out the cold in the colder winter months!



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKSHOP

At the end of May, the Law & Human Rights Office of Projects Abroad Argentina had the pleasure of starting a new partnership with the local organization Basta de Trata. Basta de Trata is an organization based in Córdoba with the aim of informing and raising awareness about the issue of human trafficking. The organization focuses not only on bringing light to this issue, but also on breaking taboos, informing the community, and taking time out of their lives to fight daily against trafficking. The group works through various means, including public campaigns, workshops, discussions forums, prevention and assistance programs for trafficking victims, and many others.



On Friday May 24, the members of the Law & Human Rights Office had the great opportunity to participate in a training workshop about trafficking that was run by members of Basta de Trata. In the workshop, volunteers learned how human trafficking is a form of modern slavery and is a direct violation of human rights that all types



of people face- no matter their gender, race, or age. While there is no exact definition, human trafficking is considered to be the collection and transfer of people, in or out of a country, resulting in some type of exploitation. The Basta de Trata facilitators also explained that there are three specific types of exploitation: sexual, labor, and the illicit removal of organs and tissues. The workshop covered many other aspects about human trafficking and was extremely informative for the volunteers. It was also particularly convenient, as two of the volunteers, Anne (Canada) and Hana (USA), were developing their research on sex trafficking in Argentina. The Law & Human Rights Office's partnership with Basta de Trata looks as if it will be very rewarding, and many positive developments are sure to come!



THABANG SEKETE SOUTH AFRICA (TEACHING, 1 MONTH)

Teaching is one of the most daunting and fulfilling experiences I have ever had the pleasure of engaging in, in recent years. Walking into any classroom is nerve-wracking, to say the least. Now, imagine walking into a classroom in a foreign country in which you do not speak the local language and wherein you are coming to teach English (not an official language of Argentina, by the way). It almost seemed superfluous to me to teach English where its necessity was not obvious; I could not stop but wonder what it meant to the kids, who probably thought, as most of us did, that school itself was superfluous. This was going to be an experience to write about.

Weak knees, sweaty palms and a dry throat were only some of the many symptoms I experienced when entering the doors to Don Bosco I.P.E.M 39 for the first time. A cool and overcast Monday morning at a school seemed like the ideal setting for a disaster in waiting. But, this was not a scene from a Hollywood movie – we weren't tormented to tears, nor were we slow-clapped by the teachers, students, and janitors upon our exit. In fact, we spent the first week introducing and re-introducing ourselves. More than anything, we provided a great distraction for both the students and the teachers. For over a week students didn't really have to work and teachers didn't really have to teach; a welcomed break for both camps. But, we could only talk and field questions about South Africa and our personal lives for so long. Eventually we got into the teaching routine and found the challenge of teaching to be quite intense.

Firstly, our students (bless their souls) were kids hyped up on sugar unable to sit still or quiet for more than 3 minutes at a time. Getting them focussed was a challenge bigger than getting them to understand the material being taught. The biggest challenge, however, was that of language – we couldn't speak Spanish and they couldn't speak English; there was no middle ground. But we weren't going to let anything get in the way of our teaching. Our Spanish phrase books and dictionaries became our close companions, and as the students slowly picked up English in class, we slowly picked up Spanish. In so doing, the teachers became the students.



Thank goodness for the staff at the school, the English teachers with whom we taught, and our co-ordinator, Natalia Mugas. Without their support and understanding our experience might have been indescribably different. A school is certainly one place to test yourself and find out what limits you might have. Having a support team, as we did, allows one to deeply explore those limits without the worry of cracking under the pressure.

Since our first day on that gloomy Monday morning we have been able to get involved in the learning process of the students and see them grow and improve. Whilst I was no Michelle Pfeifer in *Dangerous Minds*, the experience the students have had with us, I'm sure, has given them new found perspectives and confidence in their ability to speak English. I certainly know that my experience with the students has given me something to cherish for the rest of my life. Some day, when I stand before a class as a teacher, I will remember this month, all that I taught, and all that I learned. I will remember the challenges, and the joy of overcoming them, somewhat (I still can't speak Spanish well). And I will remember the smiles and the bright eyes of the kids discovering a world different to their own.

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

For a look at all that went on in June, check out
our Facebook page!

<http://on.fb.me/1aF3Wc5>

