



Thorntons

~ Argentina ~

ROSARIO UPDATE

September 2020

In June we would have celebrated the new church's one-year anniversary, but we were under restriction, and couldn't. As in much of the world, we have been under heavy restrictions. Here is a brief overview of our quarantine in relation to services:

March and April: Strict quarantine. During this time, we were only allowed out of the house to purchase necessary items such as food and medicine. All other businesses closed. During this time, I learned more about video-recording, editing and subtitling than I ever thought I would need to know!

May: We were still in a very strict quarantine but we were able to get documentation that allowed us to visit people, distribute food, and resume discipleship with some of our people.

June: Small gatherings. The government allowed congregations of up to ten people at a time. During this time, we had services on Wednesdays and Sundays, with cleaning time in between shifts.

July: Church services allowed for up to thirty people at a time, with strict protocol. It was both wonderful, and very short lived.

August: More restrictions. Because of an outbreak of the virus in our province, we had to go back to only 10 people in the services, and businesses scaled back to restrictive hours.

September: Back to strict quarantine: For the first three weeks of September we were not allowed any meetings at all in the church. We will continue post services any time we cannot meet physically. Just this week the governor announced that we could again start meetings of up to ten people, so we have plans to resume the meetings as soon as possible. We have had a group of people – ourselves included - who were sick, so we started our services again on Wednesday the 23rd. There are still many restrictions, including no food or beverages allowed, and no activities that could include them.

While the last many months have been a roller coaster of events, God has worked during this time and brought us a visitor, Fernando. Please keep our people in your prayers.

One GREAT blessing we have had is the faithfulness of our partners! In such uncertain times, the fact that you have held the ropes for us, and allowed us to live and help others has been an enormous blessing! Most of our folks were getting back to work when illness and new restrictions returned.

As in most areas of the world, the fear of the virus has changed the way we live, and is changing the way we minister. We are not allowed to hand out any papers or pamphlets in hand to anyone, nor go door to door, nor leave tracts in the doors, nor approach people on the sidewalk. They have to contact us if they want information or to visit. At least Fernando contacted us!

During our many weeks in home restriction we have enjoyed participating in services with our supporting churches! We have viewed live services when possible, and/or recordings where available. Singing in English was a plus!! Thank you for all the work of keeping up the online presence: we know it isn't easy.

May God richly bless you with peace, guidance, purpose and fruit in your ministries! Thank you for your prayers for us

Steve and Pam