



# Thorntons

~ Rosario, Argentina ~

June 2020

Dear Pastor and Friends:

In June of last year the Lord led us to begin a work in a new barrio of Rosario. We began services with just the two of us, and our pastoral intern, Lucas. Growth has been slow as we reach into a neighborhood without a gospel preaching church.

In August a senior lady, **Norma**, and her son, Marcelo, began coming to services. They attended the Sunday services faithfully for some weeks, and were both saved the end of September. It was a great day!

Now, Norma is with the Lord- she had pneumonia in January, which complicated her health condition, and then got a severe infection through a bedsore. Two days before they were going to send her to home care, she entered eternity. It was not a virus-related death, but we were not able to minister to them as desired because of the limitations we are living under. There was no wake, no funeral, no visiting the family.



But think- had you not sent us; had God not put us in that barrio, 3 blocks from their home; had they not received the gospel, understood it, and accepted God's offer of salvation- she would not have had hope.

Nevertheless, she did accept Christ's forgiveness, and entered His presence in peace. *That* is our whole purpose for being here. Norma is with the Lord today! Her son, Marcelo, is still new in Christ, and had not been attending much due to work before the quarantine left us all homebound, but he needs God's comfort at this time.

We continue to be home-bound here, only allowed out to the grocery store or the pharmacy. A few other stores are allowed to open now between 1-7 pm, but we are far from being able to carry on in a basic manner, and still not allowed services of any kind, not to attend funerals, births or any other events.

Services are broadcast by video on Sundays, and by audio on Wednesday nights. We are having many reproductions of the video during the week, so we are trusting that the Word is reaching new homes during this quarantine.

I have now been able to secure a permit to visit parishioners in need, and take them food. This also allows us to drop off a Bible study for the ladies, and the discipleship lessons for those who want them. It's limited, but at least we can now check in on folks. Our nurse has worked an inordinate number of hours, and was very physically and emotionally exhausted. We had a good visit with her, and she was able to take a couple of days off work to recover some, and is doing much better. Pray for Jaqui, please.



We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at home: grilling out! Can't go out to eat, or pick up food from a nice restaurant, since there aren't any in our immediate area. But we *will* find a chance as soon as this opens up more!

Thank you for your faithfulness, especially during this time. We know things are not easy for you all, either, and not being able to gather for services has been very discouraging world-wide. Let's all pray for one another, and ask God to allow us all to soon be back in God's house, with new souls reached through the internet efforts.

Gratefully,

*Steve and Pam*