

It is hard to believe it's the end of November and I'm putting together another Christmas newsletter.

The year really does seem to have sped by. For The Esperanza Trust (Argentina), it has been a busy but fruitful year as we welcomed Laura and Claire Griffith as representatives in Northern Ireland. Both have previously visited Santiago del Estero and contributed hugely to our fundraising efforts this year. Rodney has visited Santiago del Estero and we have welcomed our previous trustee Norman Sinclair back on to the board of trustees.

With Christmas and a New Year on the horizon it's a good time to take stock and look at the differences we have made this year and to thank you our faithful supporters for your ongoing financial and prayerful contributions that have enabled us to do this. With that in mind, this newsletter is packed full of stories and 'thank you's' from both those we have helped and those we are excited to work with. As you read the stories I am sure, like us, you will feel moved and privileged to be part of this important work. With out further ado let us wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2017.

With very best wishes and heartfelt thanks, from The Esperanza Trust (Argentina).

Greetings from Jorge, our Local Representative in SdE

Many will be familiar with the name Jorge Salum. Jorge has been a longstanding friend of The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) and has been a linchpin in the work we have been able to do in SdE since the trust began almost 20 years ago. Here Jorge tells us what being part of this work means to him

"Sometime during April 1997, my very dear friend and brother in Christ, Rodney Bennett was visiting Santiago del Estero. He spoke to me about the great needs he had noticed while travelling around some areas of the province. As a result of his findings he set up a charity in the UK to raise funds that could be used to provide help where need was greatest. He proposed that I, Jorge Lionel Salum, be the local representative of the charity here in Santiago del Estero. I readily accepted his proposition because it immediately filled me with joy. This was a special service for the Lord, our God. I too was keen to visit areas throughout the province to seek out those places where the Trust could provide help. As the local representative, I can happily report that the Trust has greatly

helped provide financial support to a wide variety of causes. Educational scholarships have been provided for children studying at the William Morris School in Frias, the refuge school at Brea Pozo and the Alfredo Furniss School in the provincial Capital. All the children supported are from families where parents do not have basic, adequate living resources.

Financial support has also helped the construction of multi-purpose halls, the extension and the provision of appropriate equipment and systems in education, nutrition and health support.

The Lord God has never failed. He has given abundantly to meet the needs of those who lack the basic means for everyday living. I continue to plead from the depths of my heart and extend it to all brethren to pray for The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) so its work may continue and the Lord would enable Rodney to continue visiting us for many years to come!

Thank you to my dear friends and brethren who constitute The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) for your trust and confidence in me in being able to administer the funds which are sent for distribution to cover the various needs. I send my very best wishes to all those involved with this beautiful and great charity".

With my love in Christ, Jorge L Salum



From Kindergarten to 5th Grade

Franco Nicolas Bruno Jimenez was born in the province of Santiago del Estero in February 2006. At 3 years old he was enrolled in the Nursery Section of "Mi Pesebre" (My Manger), the Kindergarten of the Evangelical "Colegio Alfredo Furniss". Franco's parents wanted to let us know the difference the support from The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) has made to his life.

"Due to the generosity of The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) in providing financial help Franco was able to take his first steps in education at the nursery before moving to the Kindergarten where he stayed until he was 5 years old. He is now in grade 5A of Primary Education. He attends a morning session at the Colegio and is continuing his studies with the help of a scholarship from the Trust. We, his parents, are eternally grateful for this practical help in seeing that Franco obtains the best in his education"

Portal de Belan is Making a Difference

Fabian Salazar is 10 years old. His story is a difficult one to read but one we are so pleased to have been a part of. He was adopted by an inspirational woman called Blanca Salazar. Here, Blanca tells us of how she came to adopt Fabian, the challenges they both face and the support they have received through the "Portal de Belan", a project supported by The Esperanza Trust (Argentina).

Fabian's biological mother abandoned him at birth, leaving him because of his low birth weight. Hospital and staff were deeply moved and upset by this. Blanca who worked as a cleaner in the maternity and postnatal department of the hospital regularly watched baby Fabian, and heard him cry as she went about her work. At the end of each shift Blanca would go into the ward and spend time with Fabian, soothing him until he slept. She subsequently asked to adopt him and he has been her adoptive son for 10 years.

Fabian is now in the 5th grade of a local school where he attends daily from 8.00 until noon. Blanca works long hours each day and does

not finish until 6.00pm. After school Fabian visits a neighbour's house to let her know he is home and she provides him with lunch. Six days a week he eats alone and Blanca pays the neighbour for helping her in this way. Fabian knows that Blanca is not his biological mother and will explain this by saying he wasn't in her belly! But goes on to say he is aware that Blanca loves him with her soul as she has had him since he was a baby, has bottle-fed him and changed his nappies! Fabian does not know that he was abandoned in the hospital at birth by his biological mother

Fabian is a timid boy who speaks rather slowly. This is indicative of his state of mind. He is often taunted and ridiculed at school because of being an adopted child. Sometimes classmates hide his school belongings. Fabian lives just two doors away from the "Portal de Belén" where poor children from the area meet on a weekly basis to play, paint and participate in various activities. The children listen to Bible stories and have a meal before going home. He always attends this weekly event and wishes that it were more than once a week



because he is always happy there, playing and taking part in the activities. Fabian is loved and cared for by the team at the "Portal de Belén" and it is hoped that through attending he will develop and grow in all aspects of his life

Blanca Salazar said, she adopted Fabian because she loved him from the time she first saw him in the hospital. She is so happy knowing that the "Portal de Belén" is helping him build his confidence and improve his studies. Please do remember Fabian and Blanca in your prayers.

The Difference Your Support Has Made to Maria Gracia Toledo

We were so pleased to get this greeting from Maria Gracia Toledo, one of the many children and young people we financially supported through their education.



"Greetings to you my dear brethren". I am Maria Gracia and live in Santiago del Estero Capital. I am one of the many young people who has benefitted from the scholarships you have given to enable us to study at the Colegio Alfredo Furniss.

Time has gone by very quickly and I have enjoyed the immense help received from The Esperanza Trust (Argentina). I am now in my 5th year and not only did the "good hand of God" accompany me in receiving each monthly offering from yourselves but knowing it came from so far away makes me feel honoured by the practical love of the Lord and His work. You have accompanied me for many years and for this I am infinitely grateful for what you have done in my favour. I wish to imitate your faith and love and I pray that God will continue to bless, encourage and strengthen you so you can continue being a blessing to other children and young people until Christ comes to look for us.

In God's grace I shall be travelling 1400 km's towards the south of Argentina to study Basic

Theology at the Word of Life Institute based in San Miguel del Monte. We understand this is the road God has marked for my life, prior to initiating a university course.

I have prayed many times for you and will continue to do so; my parents always taught me to be grateful in life. May God continue blessing your labours and your generous investment in our province.

With many thanks to you all and to each of you individually, with my love and prayers.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Maria Gracia Toledo

Don't forget!

As you embark on your Christmas shopping, don't forget you can support The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) with your online shopping by visiting www.givingabit.com. Many major retailers are available through this website and with every online purchase made a small percentage will be donated to the charity of your choice. It is easy to register and make The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) your chosen charity. Thank you!

And Finally, A Big Thank You

And finally, in 2017, The Esperanza Trust (Argentina) will be 20 years old. We will be celebrating the work and thanking those that have been such an important part of it. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further details coming soon www.esperanzatrust-argentina.org.uk



Email: esperanzatrust@blueyonder.co.uk **Website:** www.esperanzatrust-argentina.org.uk