



Dear Fellow Helpers:

First, we want to thank you for your prayers and help. The dear Lord keeps us safe and healthy in spite of the virus expanding around us again. Know that there is no greater need in the ministry here than your prayers for the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. One of the most urgent prayer needs is that we can have God's wisdom of the prophetic scriptures that we must understand more and more. We are the generation that is seeing our world change like never before!

In the southern hemisphere, the climate is getting colder and the flu season is fast upon us. In addition to the typical illnesses during this time of year, we are having an increase in COVID again and things are shutting down. The health workers and others have closed off the highways for two weeks now. We have been unable to travel to the church in Picun Leufu. These people are so serious that they have even stopped big trucks that deliver items needed in outlying communities. There are food items that we can no longer find in stores. There was a line of vehicles backed up for close to ten miles a few days ago on the highways in the province. Every four hours they let some vehicles pass and others find a very long detour that can be very complicated. A couple of days ago there was a rain storm that dropped three inches of rain in our area in a twenty-four-hour period making some roads almost impossible to pass. Still, these workers did not leave their tents and road blocks! These people are serious and the government will not meet their demands for salary increases that they really deserve as front-line workers. They did allow gasoline trucks to deliver fuel a few days ago so now we have access to fuel for now. We were down to less than a quarter of a tank of gasoline.

It has been more than two years since we have seen our children. We had planned a trip, but travel out of Argentina has been blocked. We don't know when we will be able to visit our families. Through all of this, I remind myself that these times are prophesied in the scriptures and called, "the beginning of sorrows". It should not be a surprise and we must remember that we are to pray for the Lord to set up his kingdom. Our heart, mind and prayers must be set on that goal.

We rejoice in the Lord and keep giving out the gospel any way that we can. In the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to present the gospel to Gerardo that changes the oil in our car, Jose at the car wash, Marcelo at the ice cream shop, and Walter that stopped by our home to help load a heavy chair for a brother from the church in Picun. There is always someone to talk to here and there. The sad part of this is that no one has accepted the gospel at this point. We even have visitors in services that have heard several times, yet are holding back. Lord willing, the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of these lost souls. Our senior saint, Osvaldo Silvestro (age 92), told me last night that he passed out thirty tracts on his walks this week. It is a blessing to have a brother that challenges us all.

On the personal side, we just had our medical checkups that we should have had a year ago and all is well. We thank you for your prayers! Several years ago, my kidneys were operating at thirty percent and, thank the Lord, I am at seventy percent now. Our doctor said that was pretty good for an old man! Shelley's tests came back great also. Your prayers and support are much appreciated and of great help.

Know that we are praying for you all! Num 6:24-26 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Blessings,  
Bro. Joe and Shelley Martinez

April 23, 2021