



<p><i>Argentina Introduction</i> July 2001 and November 2002</p> <p>Part 02, Ch. 01 CRF Media Chronicles</p>	<p>Final: 01/31/13 Time: 22:07</p> <p>© 2013 Carl and Arline Ryan</p>
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Arline: Argentina, located along the Atlantic coast of South America, is the most European of all Latin American countries. This is the home of a proud people who, ... at one time, could boast of living in the fifth wealthiest country of the world. But, ... this is no more. They have lost their way.

Decades of overspending forced the country into the biggest ever debt default. They face stagnant growth with a rising cost of living. One in two Argentines now live in poverty; food is scarce; one-fifth of the work force is unemployed.

We made two trips to this beautiful country. The first was in July 2001 and the second in November 2002. This was a sad time for the Argentines as their economy was collapsing. Our first trip was to the Criollos living in the northern provinces of Chaco and Corrientes. The problems swirling around Buenos Aires had little effect on this people group. The Criollos have always lived in poverty. They are native Argentines ... living in the area long before the arrival of Europeans.

Overlay: Resistencia: 2001

Carl: Resistencia, the capital of Chaco Province, is a modern city with high rise apartment buildings, wide avenues and many retail outlets. Occasionally the Criollo people are observed as they work in the background cleaning the streets and hauling trash in their small horse drawn carts.

We stayed on the seventh floor of an eleven story apartment building. It was a nice place but the need for heavy iron bars on the lower story windows was a reminder of serious crime in the city.

Most of our time was spent in the rural areas including across the Parana River and Corrientes Province. Throughout the area we observed a hard working people but in conditions that spoke loudly of their poverty.

Overlay: Pampa Alegria

On our Saturday trip to the area around Saénz Peña, we met several families following their daily routines. It was a heart breaking experience as we began to better understand the plight of these native Argentines.

After talking with Antonia and her family, we discovered that they are Christians and would be at the church service the following day in the village of Pampa Alegria.

Arline: Early Sunday morning Rudy, a Christian and of German decent, drove Carl and I to the church service. It was an interesting ride in the old pickup. I could see the road through holes in the floor board at my feet.

There was no building but they had Sunday School classes for all ages each with their own improvised accommodations.

At the worship service, we met while standing in a circle on bare ground. We sang songs, worshiped God, listened to the sermon, observed Sunday School classes and then, at the conclusion, joined in for the communion service. To our surprise, Antonia was one of the leaders serving the elements. The usual grape juice was not available so peach nectar was substituted. The Holy Spirit was in the midst of these believers and working among them.

Images remain in our minds of the Argentines, especially the Criollo as they struggle in their position at the bottom of the country's social and economic status.

Overlay: Elementary School

Carl: For the most part, the Argentine people are looking for a better life and try to select an object of worship that will grant their desires. They are seeking a “prosperity gospel” and base their allegiance on one who bestows material gifts to them.

Overlay: Gaucho Gil

Gaicho Gil is one example. He is worshiped by many based on purported economic and personal benefits. People continue to display gratitude of thanks for these apparent gifts with special made plaques, license plates of cars and wedding dresses. All these gifts are made with the expectation of a better life ... of more happiness and more wealth. Gaucho Gil is worshiped as a martyr and often elevated to a position equivalent to Jesus.

Overlay on picture:

With gratefulness to the strength of the spiritual trilogy, I offer this humble gift.

Traveling around, whether in a town or along the roadside, ... shrines are ever present. They give an opportunity for the resident and the traveler to offer thanks to their benefactor ... hoping for a favor ... a better job, ... a car, ... money to repair their home.

The Gaucho – the Argentine cowboy – is an isolated but much revered cultural symbol in Argentina. They continue to exude a macho air. We were fortunate to attend a major rodeo event where the Gauchos displayed their skills.

Four American cowboys joined in the festivities and took the opportunity to introduce the most macho person they know, Jesus Christ.

Before leaving for home, we enjoyed a dinner at a small restaurant with missionaries Steve and Pam. Although surprised with the added toppings including a fried egg, ham, fried potatoes or vegetables, we found our Argentine steak to be delicious!

Overlay: Leaving Argentina: August 2001

Overlay: Arriving Argentina: November 2002

Arline: Our second trip to Argentina the following year was much more extensive than the first. During the four week visit, our travels ranged from the mega city of Buenos Aires to the university city of Córdoba and to the central agricultural area of Santa Fe and Entré Rios. We visited people spanning the economic and social spectrum from the wealthy professional to the impoverished dirt farmer.

It was also a time of discovering how the individuals and families coped with the deteriorating economic condition of the country. Some rushed to their icons and folk heroes of the past or the huge Catholic church buildings. Others found that “Christ in Every Heart” was “The Only True Hope for Argentina.”

Overlay: There is Life in Jesus (English for sign “Hay Vida en Jesus”)

Buenos Aires, the home of 1/3 of Argentina's people, is an active city with busy streets, ... high rise buildings, ... shiny new cars, ... wide avenues, ... monuments to past heroes and, of course, ... the Argentine President's office complex known as Casa Rosada, the Pink House.

Overlay: The Pink House

All of this conveys the idea of prosperity and well being.

To the professionals of Buenos Aires, image is all important and they project an air of confidence and affluence. This is apparent on the street, in their place of work, their homes and their lifestyle.

Overlay: The Pro-Meta Team

The Pro-Meta Team, ... ministering to this elite group, ... provides the opportunity to know more about Christ and an authentic Christian community. Professionals are invited to participate in study groups, seminars, music concerts, art exhibits, and English conversation classes meeting in hotels, offices, restaurants and other non-church environments. These are well attended and well done.

Ralph and Judy, our hosts, took us to the Boca shops and tourist area on the banks of the Río de la Plata. The Argentine tango originated in the suburbs of Buenos Aires and has spread internationally. We were tourists on this day and enjoyed it!

The food in Buenos Aires is very tasty. Most meats are barbecued over a charcoal fire. Walking to a small cafe or ice cream shop in the evening was a delight in the safe area where we were staying. Carl enjoyed every drop of his latte and my sandwich was excellent!

Venturing out along the streets in most areas of Buenos Aires is especially dangerous in the late evening and night. It is done with great care and always only a few feet away from our car. When taking these night pictures downtown, our friend Jon was very near us continually watching. I was praying for protection until the three of us were back in the car and the doors locked.

Carl: It was a joy, ... and a special memory, ... for us to participate in the events of the professional team. We were invited to an “asado”, or barbeque, at the home of an attorney and his family. Getting together on the roof top of their lovely home with this family and other guests was a wonderful experience. The steak and chicken was outstanding!

The professionals, for the most part, live and work in the the Federal Capital area. With a population of 3 million, it is in the heart of this sprawling city of 38 million people. But, not far away from the high-rise buildings, the manicured parks and the glitter is another Buenos Aires.

The neighborhoods known as “villas” are a collection of shacks, run down apartments and businesses.

Overlay: Villas in Buenos Aires

These places are the homes of gangsters, ... of prostitution ... and drug traders. It is too dangerous for visitors and law enforcement alike. These are places that could be visited only from the safety of the main highway ... and then with caution.

In the rural area, ... and near large grain storage facilities, ... is the town of Salto. Life here seems to be comfortable when viewed from the affluent nature of the town center and square. However, in the residential areas most people live below the poverty level. Still, the people are friendly. They will often share their mate ... the national drink.

Overlay: Mate: National Drink

It seems everywhere we went in Argentina mate was in-hand or accessible. Mate is made from dried Yerba leaves and is an important social activity as a sip is taken from the special straw and then passed to the next person.

Despite the often primitive living conditions, sharing God's Word with these folks is a real joy. A weekly Bible study meets in a home in a quiet neighborhood with a small church. Sometimes they meet outside under a shade tree not far from a pig pen. An uncle of one of the members stopped by and listened to the singing and study.

Overlay: Cordoba

Arline: In Córdoba, 400 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, the streets abound with reminders of Argentina's heroes, of their Catholic heritage and their high academic standards.

This is a university city. Students are actively preparing for their future. The hopes are high that they will find a good job upon graduation. This is a place of adventure and discovery.

For our missionary friends, Mark and Karen, opportunities abound as they share God's Word on the campus, in various home Bible study groups and personal witnessing. We finished our time in this city with the confidence that many young people were learning about Christ.

Carl: Mark Alexander drove us about half way on the five-hour drive East to the central farming area of Santa Fe and Entré Rios. We stopped at a restaurant in San Francisco and met David Malone for a relaxing and delicious lunch. David then drove us on to his place of ministry in Paraná. In these rural areas and small cities, life is much different than that of Cordoba or Buenos Aires.

Overlay: Picking strawberries

Overlay: Parana River and the city of Parana

In the city of Paraná, and, ... just across from a huge WalMart store, ... a family sorts through the trash for something to eat, to wear or to sell. Many places in the city look prosperous but a short drive to the rural areas shows a completely different situation. The anguish, the fear and the hunger is evident in the faces of children.

In the midst of the despair, there are many groups of believers. Bible studies are meeting in homes on a regular basis. Here people find not only fellowship but have an opportunity to learn more about God's Word and reach out in their neighborhood to people who have no church home. The groups are growing in number, in size and in depth of understanding God's Word. It is here that "The New Life" is found.

Back in Buenos Aires we were introduced to a different type of missionary team; ... one that is working with churches and schools promoting the "No More Violence" Campaign.

Overlay: David Balyeat, National Team Leader

Argentina is known for its soccer teams, but when attending the games, it seems to be more of a contest between the loyal fans of the opposing teams than what is happening on the playing field. Violence is all around. Police form barricades, ... guard dogs are on alert. It is all to prevent bloody outbreaks between the highly charged fans.

However, in the midst of the shouting, the intimidation and disrespect, there is a force for peace. A team of Christians under the slogan "No Mas Violencia" ... "No More Violence" ... is dedicated to quelling the crowd. Their goal is to demonstrate God's love by working among exuberant fans and gently, ... but firmly, ... demonstrating the power of kindness.

Arline: The day before the actual soccer game, David took us to the soccer stadium since women rarely attended the games. I was able to experience the quiet and see where the action would take place. As several of us waited the next day, we were concerned for Carl, David and his "No More Violence" team. News came over the radio that violence had erupted at the soccer game. Police were using rubber bullets! Where were our guys? Thankfully, they left the game when David felt the tension building.. It was a frightening time waiting to hear if they were OK. Carl said it was an unbelievable experience that he DID NOT want to repeat!

Overlay: No More Violence banner in front of the Pink House

Our time in Argentina was drawing to a close and sharing Thanksgiving with the missionary families in Buenos Aires was an added bonus. Everyone contributed something delicious for dinner but one can of cranberries brought in from the States was the real treat. Being together thanking God for our families in the United States, we were reminded of what it means to be an international missionary. These gathered in the Vick home were "family" to each other and enjoyed a sweet time of fellowship and good food. As a reminder of our days in Argentina, we were presented with a beautiful book of Argentina.

The next day it was time to pack all our bags and board the plane for home. This airport is MUCH better than Conakry, Guinea!!

Carl: We published the three chapters from our first visit on VHS tapes and distributed several hundred copies. After completing the videos for the second trip, we elected to publish the entire set of eleven Argentina chapters on a DVD. With 1,000 copies, this was our first commercially replicated DVD project. Most of the packaged DVD's were distributed to individuals and organizations identified by the various Argentina mission teams. We remastered the video files for inclusion on Blu-ray disc.

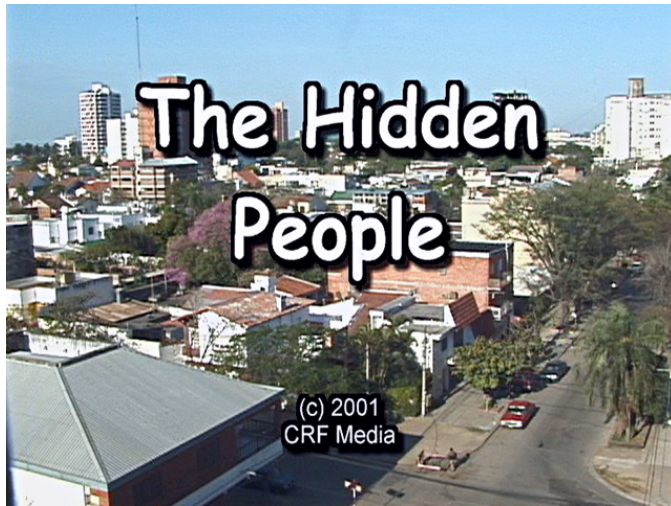
Our trips to Argentina were difficult but very moving to see how Christ can make a difference in the hearts of people.

Close: Pictures from both trips

Overlay: CRF Media Chronicles

© Filmed: 2001, 2002

Narrators: Carl, Arline



The Hidden People

Ch. 02 (11:01) Filmed August 2001

Overlay: City of Resistencia

Resistencia, founded in 1878 by immigrants from Italy, is the beautiful and energetic capital of the Province of Chaco.

Located in the hot lowlands of northeastern Argentina and with a population of 300,000, Resistencia is the commercial as well as the cultural center of the Chaco region.

The people of this area, like those of most of Argentina, are of European decent. These immigrants from Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Russia, and the Baltic countries have been here for many generations and developed a culture and lifestyle that is uniquely Argentine. They call their adopted

language Castellano which is claimed to be a more pure form of Spanish than that spoken elsewhere in South America.

Argentines celebrate their Independence Day on July the 9th and take the opportunity to make speeches, feature the various cultural groups in parades, and to show off their prestige with everything from military aircraft and vintage cars to the sanitation workers and their shiny, new garbage truck. The importance of family is also demonstrated in this parade.

This area is the home of the Gauchos. These fun-loving and energetic Argentine cowboys are responsible for raising high-quality grass-fed beef.

The streets in the downtown area of Resistencia boast of many stores and offices, large apartment buildings, and a well maintained transportation system.

There was one large group of people that was not present in the Independence Day Parade. Many Argentines would prefer to keep the Native Argentine Criollo hidden in the rural areas and on the outskirts of the cities.

Fontana is a suburb of Resistencia and the home of some of the Criollos. Here, the paved streets of the city are replaced by dirt roads, the automobiles replaced by non-functioning tractors, the sidewalks replaced by open sewers, and tall apartment buildings replaced by small masonry structures. Most people who have jobs must ride bicycles to get to work in the city. Local employment is hard to find and wages are very low. About 50% of the people are unemployed. Some people earn a small income selling staple goods from their homes. Yet, one of the things the Criollos value highly is hospitality and the visitor is welcomed and offered mate, a tea that is shared from a common cup.

Behind a levee that protects them from the Rio Paraná and in the shadow of a large grain elevator is another community called La Toma. On the edge of this community is the home of a boat builder by the name of Jose. He builds good fishing boats but he is unable to sell enough to improve the living conditions of his family. Jose, his wife, Raquel, and their 4 children live in a home where the walls and roof are made from sheets of black plastic.

The flat terrain of the pampas is well suited to raising cattle. The care of the cattle throughout the area is entrusted to the Gauchos. The rainy season turns some of the pastureland into lakes, which requires extra work in caring for the cattle herds. Gauchos take great pride in being macho men.

One exciting part of the Gaucho's life is the rodeos and an opportunity to show off ones horses and horsemanship. The Gauchos cling fiercely to centuries-old traditions. On this day, it was also a time to share experiences and techniques with North American horsemen. The methods are different but a helping hand and an Argentine handshake bind the friendship of these men of different cultures and beliefs. These Christian volunteers told them about the most macho man they had ever met, Jesus Christ.

The established church, as well as the provincial government, has provided little meaningful support for these hidden people.

Catholic churches are prominent in most cities in the area; however, Catholicism is heavily mixed with animistic beliefs and popular folk heroes

A shrine located outside Mercedes in Corrientes Province was set up to honor one of the folk hero's known as Gaucho Gil. People come here to pay their respects and pray to this patron saint. This also serves as an economic enterprise marketing various religious symbols and icons. On the eighth of January, over 100,000 people flood this area to honor him on the anniversary of his death.

Many people believe that they can pray to Gaucho Gil and he will intercede and persuade God to grant them favors. He takes

the place of Jesus for them. The story goes that the Argentine cowboy, Gaucho Gil, was captured in 1875 and hung from the tree that once stood at this spot. This happened after he had deserted military duties that he thought to be wrong.

tree where hung, plaques and license plates

Many accounts circulate about the favors granted by Gaucho Gil. Plaques abound at the shrine expressing gratitude to Gaucho Gil. License plates on the wall are from people who attribute the gaucho with the good fortune of acquiring a new car or perhaps being saved from a bad car wreck. The wedding dresses hanging from the ceiling are a thank offering to Gaucho Gil for a good marriage.

Virgin of Itati and Saint Death

Two other popular religious symbols are the Virgin of Itati and Saint Death. Saint Death was the patron saint of Gaucho Gil so people here will also pray to Saint Death as well as Gaucho Gil petitioning for a non-violent death.

Saénez Peña is the second largest city in Chaco Province and located about 100 miles west of Resistencia. Here, as well as elsewhere in the province, the Criollos are left out of meaningful employment opportunities.

Many of the Criollos live and work in the rural areas of the provinces. The roads to get to these settlements are rough and poorly maintained. When it rains these roads become virtually impassable. About 30 miles northwest of Saénez Peña is the small settlement of Pampa Alegria. The living conditions in this colonia are similar to that throughout the area. The small homes are made of mud and sticks with a dirt floor. But this colonia is different than most of the other places. They have a church here.

People gather for worship. A few men leave the comfort of their churches in Saénez Peña and make the hour drive to Pampa Alegria to assist in the worship service as well as teach Sunday School. One leads the group in prayer and songs of praise. He continues with a lesson from God's Word as the people stand and listen carefully.

The worship time concludes after an hour and Sunday School begins. M. takes the six little children and sits them in a circle near the tall grass. Four teenagers help their teacher bring a table outside. They use a hand cranked cassette tape player as part of their Bible study. Meanwhile, B. and four young adults gather next to a house where they enjoy mate while discussing the lesson. There is no need for a nursery here. As R. teaches the seven adults under a tree, a little one plays quietly and a mother comforts her baby. Their time together ends with the observation of the Lord's Supper. Servant Leaders serve a small loaf of bread and a common glass of peach nectar.

God is here in the midst of these believers. Those in attendance are eager to learn more about Jesus. Other small villages like this one are opening to the Gospel. The church planting movement is growing in this part of the world as the Criollo people discover that Jesus can give them hope in every circumstance of life.

are here with one mission and that is to begin a church planting movement so that our people can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

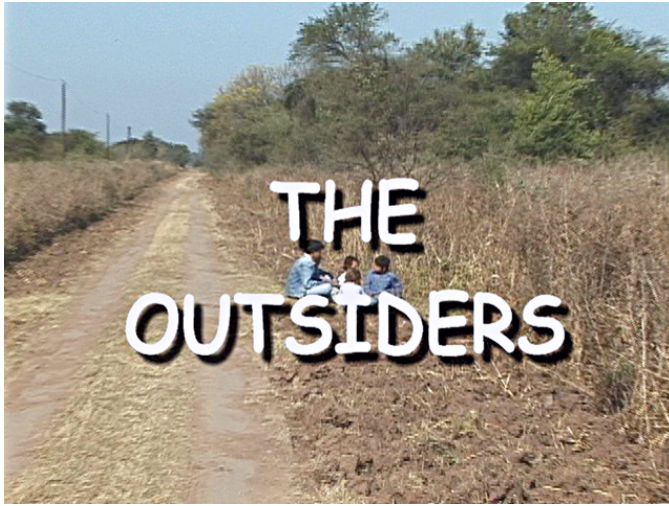
People here may pray the prayer that the evangelicals ask ... but "just in case" ... they also continue to pray to their saint and to listen to the messages presented by cults. We present the Gospel little by little through narratives, not rushing the people to a decision. ... Will you help us show these people how to leave the darkness behind and step into the light of God's Son? Will you help us train Christians in churches in Northern Argentina to disciple small groups of believers? Are you willing to walk with us among these hidden people? Will you be on your knees as a prayer warrior for the Criollo people? As you pray, will you remember the faces of these Criollo men, women and children who need you? **What will you do?**

Ending: group singing at Pampa Alegria with overlay: HELP ... TEACH ... GO ... PRAY

Transition to Web site address: for more information: <http://www.nacriollo.com/>

The Criollo ... the hidden people ... are overlooked and pushed aside. Their lack of education, environmental conditions, and family problems all present difficulties in reaching them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One of the greatest challenges we face is to stay on focus with the mission that God has called us to carry out because it would be so easy to prioritize the social part of the ministry. That is important but we are here with one mission and that is to begin a church planting movement so that our people can come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

People here may pray the prayer that the evangelicals ask ... but "just in case" ... they also continue to pray to their saint and to listen to the messages presented by cults. We present the Gospel little by little through narratives, not rushing the people to a decision. ... Will you help us show these people how to leave the darkness behind and step into the light of God's Son? Will you help us train Christians in churches in Northern Argentina to disciple small groups of believers? Are you willing to walk with us among these hidden people? Will you be on your knees as a prayer warrior for the Criollo people? As you pray, will you remember the faces of these Criollo men, women and children who need you? What will you do?



The Outsiders

Ch. 03 (9:24) Filmed August 2001

To be an outsider is more than being alone in a tall field of grass. It is being looked down upon and shoved aside or ignored. This is the plight of the Native Argentine Criollo ... a group of people that many Argentines would prefer to keep hidden in the rural areas. It is like those that see a circle representing a better life ... a life that you occasionally enter but where you must leave after only a fleeting moment.

Presidencia Roque Saénz Peña, located in Northern Argentina, with a population of about 80,000 is the second largest city in Chaco Province. Many of the Native Argentine Criollos live and work near here, but they are not the ones driving cars or with good paying jobs. The Criollos

can easily be identified by their horse drawn carts called **carritos**. The Criollos can be seen hauling trash, sweeping the street, and sometimes bringing fresh vegetables to the open-air markets in town. Others find seasonal work at the **cotton gin** located at the southern edge of town.

The Criollo homes are usually small brick structures. Some have electricity but few other conveniences. Usually, the extended family lives in the same house.

The more capable and enterprising ones are able to set-up their own business. This charcoal factory near the town of Machagai is a good example. The family settled on the edge of a large cattle ranch and constructed these mud and brick kilns to make the charcoal.

Enough money is earned selling the charcoal for subsistence living. The work is hard. The rewards appear to be few. The family lives in a mud and stick home, cook their bread in an outdoor beehive shaped oven, and prepare their meals in a kitchen attached to their home.

The horse-drawn cart is used to haul wood from the nearby trees for making the charcoal. The charcoal-making oven looks like a very large beehive. With limited oxygen supply, wood smolders in this oven for four days. The oven is then completely sealed off to extinguish the fire and the resulting charcoal is allowed to cool for six days before the mud door is broken off and several thousand pounds of charcoal removed. The processed charcoal is loaded on the cart and taken to town where the city folks use it for grilling steaks and/or chicken.

Further away from Saenz Pena and down many miles of dirt road flanked by grazing cattle, an occasional religious shrine, and winter wheat just beginning to grow is the colonia or settlement of Pampa Alegria. In this colonia, water is drawn from a shallow community well. The homes are humble ... made of mud and sticks and very small. The cooking is done outside over a small fire. Children run and play and families work together to survive. The citrus and palm trees are evidence that temperatures in the winter seldom get below freezing. The subsistence life style is very meager. There are about 50 residents living here. Work, if available, is found on farms in the area. Very few make the 30-mile journey to Saenz Pena to work.

On this Saturday afternoon, The North American visitors are greeted warmly and welcomed with smiles. These folks are eager to visit and show us around their colonia. Don Miguel seems to be the leader and introduces his family and happily gathers everyone for pictures. The teenage boys show off their skill with a sling-shot. Living in the dirt with little water, it is almost impossible to keep clean. At one home near the community well, a young woman is scrubbing clothes by hand outside and hanging them on a line to dry. Reaching the path leading to the home of another colonia leader, Antonia and her children smiled in greeting. North American visitors are not often seen here. Between her home and another is a small garden.

About 10 miles from this colonia, is an elementary school. School was not in session but the Catholic parishioners are waiting for the priest to arrive to begin mass. The school has several rooms and is equipped with desks and blackboards. Just behind the school several people are opening the locked glass door of a small shrine and removing a religious icon needed for the service.

REACHING THEM:

A rough road can be expected when attempting to reach these that have been left on the outside. Also, one must be careful in the approach to keep from pushing these native Argentine Criollos further away. Strong beliefs in witch doctors and folk heroes represent major barriers to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. People here may pray the prayer that the evangelicals ask ... but "just in case" ... they also continue to pray to their saint and to listen to the messages presented by cults.

Scenes: Randy talking to Antonia/other families/Kathy & Randy at Refuge of God Church/teaching classes at Good News Church/

These people need to know that you really are concerned about them and are willing to walk side by side. This requires meeting wherever they are.

Good News Church – Pastor Marcelo

It requires more than a missionary couple. Important in this outreach is the support of the pastors and congregation of the established churches in Saenz Pena.

Randy leading class

These churches provide the people and other resources necessary to cover the large geographic area surrounding Saenz Pena.

Kathy teaching

The method of chronological storytelling in which the truths of the scripture are conveyed through spoken words and pictures is used more and more in sharing the Good News. However, those leading must be taught how to do this effectively. Many Criollos are unable to read well, if at all. Through chronological storytelling, the Gospel is presented little by little through narratives, not rushing the people to a decision.

The pastor and people of the Buenas Nuevas Church are actively involved in working with the Criollos in the area. God has given these believers a desire to tell the Criollos about Jesus. These young people are showing God's love.

Two Girls.

Marissa, a member of the Buenas Nuevas Church as well as fellow member, Vicky, are actively involved in reaching the Criollos.

Church at Pampa Alegria

Churches are being established where the Criollos know that they are NOT outsiders. Pampa Alegria, the colonia that we visited earlier, is one of these churches. On Sunday morning, because so many are believers in Jesus Christ, nearly the entire colonia turns out for the worship service.

Each Sunday morning, Rudy, Bernabe, and teenager Marcelo leave town and their familiar churches and drive an hour to the village to assist in the worship service as well as teach Sunday School. At about 9:30, people gather for worship. The clothes drying on the lines yesterday are being worn today, hair is washed and curled, and faces are shining. It was evident that preparations had been made for attending worship. Standing in the sun on the bare ground under a clear sky, hands join forming a circle. Leading the group in prayer and songs of praise, Rudy begins the service. As he continues with a sermon, those in attendance listen, seeking to truly know God.

After an hour, the worship time ends and Sunday School begins. Classes are quickly formed. Marcelo takes the little children and sits them in a circle in the tall grass, Mirta brings out an old table and a hand-cranked cassette tape player to lead the teenagers in Bible study, Bernabe gathers the young adults next to a house, and Rudy teaches the adults meeting under a tree. After the hour of Sunday School, the circle is formed again and the Lord's Supper is celebrated

using a small loaf of bread and a common glass of peach nectar served by Servant Leaders Antonia and Don Miguel.

God is in the midst of these believers. Those in attendance are eager to learn more about Jesus. It is evident that God is at work here. Other small villages are opening to the Gospel. The church planting movement is growing in this part of the world as the Criollo people discover that Jesus can give them hope in every circumstance of life.

CONCLUSION: overlay --- Help ... Pray ... Walk: – (Scene: communion Pampa Alegria)

Will you help show these people that they are not outsiders in God's eyes?

Will you pray that you can see the Criollos as part of God's people?

Will you be willing to walk with these believers as they go to other communities with the Gospel?

More information?

www.nacriollo.com



The Gauchos

Ch.04 (6:55) Filmed August 2001

Some say that the word "gaucho," referring to the Argentine cowboy, came from an indigenous word that means orphan, a descriptive name for these independent cowboys that were neither loved nor ruled by anyone.

Today the gaucho is a cultural symbol of Argentina featured in parades and famous for exotic dress and fierce competition but seemingly without any real influence in modern Argentina.

Scene: Gauchos dancing -gaucho on horse

Their colorful dress, well-groomed horses and legendary skills on horseback keep this symbol alive. Much like the cowboy of the North American West, the popularity and legends have grown larger than life. Their free lifestyle and fun-loving nature make them an object of emulation by many.

Scene: Small rodeo - breaking horses - hanging around corral

Rodeos - both large and small - are occasions for celebrating and renewing gaucho tradition and culture. Rodeos provide an important opportunity for the gaucho to display his most prized attribute-unflinching courage in any circumstance.

Scene: Horse roundup

In early times, the gauchos refused to do any work unless they were riding a horse. They saw common labor as the ultimate degradation and did not value home and family. They spent as much time as possible away from home, fighting as guerrilla soldiers against early attempts to unite Argentina's provinces under one central government.

Scene: Cattle in field

But the wars were lost, barbed wire fences were erected, new breeds of cattle introduced, and management practices changed. The waves of European immigration into Argentina pushed aside the gauchos, who in turn rejected immigrant culture. They became orphans in the very territory they had fought for.

Scenes in Fernandez, sheep, cattle roundup

In order to survive, they settled in small towns such as Fernandez in the rural areas of the provinces. They struggled to find work - even caring for sheep --- and became the hired hands working for large landowners where their skills were employed to round up, brand, and maintain the cattle herds. Here they also were required to fix fences and perform other manual labor tasks. Wages, however, were very low. Even so, they still play a vital role in Argentina's livestock industry.

INTRO GAUCHO GIL

Scene: GG shrine - barbecue - hats, boots, mate cups, plaques, etc.

With the feeling of empty opportunities for the future, it is understandable that these orphans would seek to cling to past greatness. The most famous gaucho of them all was Antonio Gil, known as Gaucho Gil. He is worshipped by many not as a skilled horseman but as a martyr who has the power to intervene and persuade God to grant favors. Gaucho Gil takes the place of Jesus for his followers because his death in 1875 was believed to represent the shedding of innocent blood. Even though he was hung on a tree that once stood here for deserting military duties and caught living with an unmarried girl, these followers are rapidly growing in number. People believe that many miraculous happenings have occurred related to Gaucho Gil.

This shrine located outside Mercedes in Corrientes Province was set up to honor this folk hero. People come here to pay their respects and pray to this patron saint. This also serves as an economic enterprise marketing various Gaucho Gil memorabilia. Every eighth of January, over 100,000 people flood this area to honor him on the anniversary of his death. Many of them

camp out in the fields nearby.

REACHING THEM

Since most gauchos cling fiercely to tradition, reaching them with anything new is difficult. They continue to exude a macho air and reject most opportunities for change. They simply are not interested in the effeminate, weak Jesus they have always seen in pictures and church images.

Scene: at the small rodeo

Recently, some North American cowboys showed them that horses could be broken without violent treatment. This provided an opportunity to introduce the most macho person they knew, Jesus Christ.

Scene: Jamey riding bull

The Argentine cowboys do not believe that bulls can be ridden. This also was an opportunity to demonstrate that one can be brave and skillful and still believe in the Savior, Jesus Christ. When the time came for the North American bull rider to demonstrate his skill, many were skeptical but excited about seeing an attempt to ride the most aggressive bull to be found in the neighborhood. The expected outcome was that the young rider would be immediately bucked off the bull, greatly embarrassed and probably injured.

Closing Scene: volunteer horsemen working with gauchos

Who is going to show the gauchos that they do not have to be orphans in God's eyes? Who is going to tell them that they can be adopted as sons and become children of the King? Will YOU?

OVERLAY: (centered)

Will you GO?

Will you GIVE?

Will you PRAY?

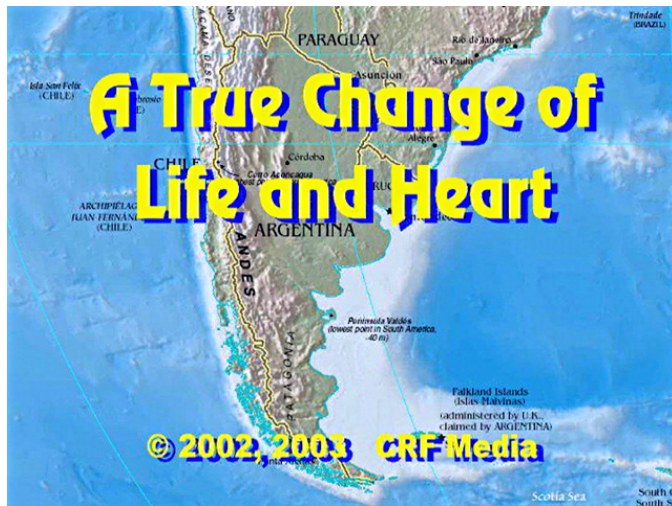
For more information: <http://www.nacriollo.com/>



Previews Christ in Every Heart

Ch. 05 (4:26) Filmed November 2002

First Paragraph of each chapter



A True Change of Life and Heart

Ch.06 (13:00) Filmed November 2002

Reaching the Professionals of Buenos Aires

At the far end of South America lies Argentina, a multifaceted gem of a country whose eastern coastline stretches for 3,000 miles along the mighty Atlantic Ocean. Argentina, meaning “silver,” is appropriately named for the River Plate which cuts a glistening path between Argentina and neighboring Uruguay. Rich in natural resources and cattle, Argentina is equally rich in the heritage of its population which is a mixture of the original Indians, as well as immigrants of Spanish, Italian, French, German, Russian, Scandinavian, and oriental descent. It is a unique “melting pot” of thought and cultures that have shaped a fiercely

proud and independent people.

More than one-third of the country’s 38 million people live in the capital city of Buenos Aires and its suburbs that lie along the River Plate. Founded by Spain in 1536, this metropolitan giant has been a major world port and gateway to Argentina for centuries. The city’s architecture and culture reflect much of the influence of those immigrants—mostly European—who have made it their home.

Situated in the heart of this sprawling metropolis is the area known as the Federal Capital. With a population of 3 million, it ranks high on the list of the most crowded cities of the world. The nerve center of the financial and banking district and hub of the national government, the Federal Capital is also home to some of the country’s finest universities and major hospitals. Millions commute to the area each day for work or other business transactions.

The people of Buenos Aires are basically religious in nature, with almost 100% claiming a belief in God. For a large majority, however, religion is a part of a culture born of family tradition and not that of a born-again believer in Christ. Roman Catholicism is the national religion and claims some 92% of the population ... but their church’s leadership expresses deep concern that only about 15% of its adherents are active in their faith and devotion to God.

(Pics of Union Sem./Superior Institute for Theological Ed./Danish Luth. Church/Central Methodist Church) Evangelicals entered the scene in this country during the late 1800’s. They brought a message of salvation and hope proclaiming that people could relate directly to God through Christ ... and highlighted the responsibility of the individual to be obedient to God. Typical of the evangelical churches is the Once Baptist Church, founded by missionaries in 1906. This is one of the churches that has remained strong in proclaiming the Gospel through the years. Yet, many have not heard and a very present darkness pervades the hustle and bustle of everyday life in the big city. Of the four million professionals living in Greater Buenos Aires, it is estimated that less than 5% know Christ as Savior.

Referred to as those from the port, or “Porteños,” the people of Buenos Aires take great pride in title and position. As a result, the professional community is large and discriminating. Traditionally, the mindset of the professionals has been to project an air of competence and self-sufficiency. Success is closely linked to their image as professionals. Following the economic crisis in January 2002, the entire country was plunged into an economic downward spiral. As the effects have sent many businesses into bankruptcy and financial disaster, the professional segment of society has been hit hard with the reality that image or title does not guarantee success. Many suffer from varying stages of depression and anxiety. For others, a sense of hopelessness and despair casts a shadow on the horizon as unemployment, foreclosure, bankruptcy and evictions from houses or apartments become more common. Growing problems with health, family issues, the economy, and a pervasive spiritual darkness have all contributed to a loss of hope and confidence. “I’m just trying to survive” ... has become a standard answer to the question of, “How are you doing?”

In their search for what is real and what brings inner peace and happiness, many Argentines turn to fortune telling ... psychic counseling ... tarot card readings ... and other mystical avenues. It is common to see red ribbons tied onto car bumpers in the superstitious belief that it will ward off evil. Such legendary figures as Gaucho Gil and the Catholic’s patron saint, the Virgin of Lujan, have become objects of hope to many. For too long religious rituals and practices have been substitutes for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

One Christian attorney expressed his views on the country's crisis and spiritual condition: (excerpts from Enrique's interview) "We can say that there are several structural errors in the country that have led us to this situation. I believe that the first, and most important, is a systematic separation from God.

Having a spiritual nature was not looked upon favorably. It was considered a waste of time. Argentines filled their leisure time by escaping to their weekend country homes, and avoiding any possible time for a spiritual relationship. The goal was to get away, spend money, and live the good life.

I believe our economic crisis is directly related to our lack of spiritual reality, our failure to see God as the solution to our problems. We now find ourselves in a situation that exceeds our possibilities to resolve it simply through our own self-sufficiency. Perhaps for that reason Argentines are more open now. The country's problems are too great for its own resources. Former values have lost their validity. Professionals and business people don't have a clear vision of what is going to happen in the short haul. As Christians we need to be able to explain to them that the only solution is the path that leads to God's original plan."

The professionals of Buenos Aires might look like your affluent next-door neighbor. Their appearance of confidence could fool you into believing that this person "has it all together." A closer look, however, into the eyes often reveals the anger, fear, despair, loneliness, helplessness or disillusionment that is hiding within this exterior. Because of the importance of "image", the typical professional finds it very difficult to express or admit to any need ... spiritual or physical ... but these people are NEEDY!

Southern Baptist missionaries are targeting the business and professional community through the efforts of the Pro-Meta Team; composed of two IMB career couples and three Argentine couples.

The name "Pro-Meta" combines the term "Pro," representing professionals, and "Meta" for "metanoia," meaning a true change of life and heart. The objectives of the Pro-Meta Team of the Buenos Aires Strategy Group focus on helping business and professional people connect to God through Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Christian professionals learn to see themselves as ministers in their workplace as they present a Christ-like example and witness to their colleagues and associates.

The majority of professionals do not seek the answer to their spiritual needs within the existing structure of the evangelical church. Fierce allegiance to the official Catholic religion—whether or not they are active participants—makes many of them reluctant even to attend worship services in an evangelical church. Further skepticism of evangelicals by the Catholic church in general, makes them even less likely to take part in any activity not sanctioned by their church.

For that reason, the Pro-Meta Team invites professionals to participate in study groups that meet in hotels ... offices ... restaurants ... and other non-church environments ... promoting authentic Christian community that goes beyond their traditional view of church. They hopefully begin to see that the issue is not religion or church, but rather ... a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Pro-Meta team also hosts special events such as music concerts and art exhibits featuring Christians who share their talents and gifts and then give testimonies of how Christ has made their life complete.

For economic reasons many Argentine families live in multigenerational situations. Unique problems and stresses arise from having both older children and grandparents still living under the same roof. The Pro-Meta team hosts seminars that deal with family issues and interpersonal relationships ... with practical suggestions ... and ultimately showing that a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is fundamental.

Monthly teas for women at a downtown hotel are geared to lead business and professional women to seek a relationship with Christ. As ladies are invited to gather for fellowship and to hear a featured speaker, they also receive a message about the love of Christ and His desire to establish a personal relationship with them.

English Conversation classes provide a home setting where professionals can gather and practice their English. It is hoped that a Christian lifestyle witness of the believers who participate will have a positive influence on those who are seeking, and will give opportunity to share the message of Christ with them.

A major focus of the Pro-Meta team's ministry is directed toward equipping Christian professionals to reach their colleagues in the marketplace. A special project has been started with the churches of the Federal Capital Baptist Association, encouraging each church to commission one or two professional couples to serve as its missionaries for six months to a year. Working together with professionals from other Baptist churches they make a concentrated effort to reach their colleagues for Christ.

As Christians we are challenged and motivated to share the good news that there is hope ... true hope ... for the future, but only through Jesus Christ and a personal relationship with Him. There is a sense of urgency as never before, as people all around us are literally drowning in despair. We must throw them the lifeline!

As the Pro-Meta Team we value...

- ◆ the place of prayer and your commitment to pray
- ◆ the power of God's Word and those who proclaim it
- ◆ the participation of God's people to plant new churches

YOU can participate in this great work of God to reach more than 13 million people for Christ.

PRAY that every person in Buenos Aires will hear about God's plan of salvation in Christ and trust in Him.

CONTRIBUTE financially to international missions offerings.

Prayerfully consider whether or not God is calling you to serve as a mission's volunteer.

Is God calling you to partner with us in missions?

Is He leading your church to send workers to this field of harvest?

For more information: www.BapMisArg.org



Excited About Salto

Ch. 08 (6:53) Filmed November 2002

“We are in love with Salto. At our church in Villa Celina, a barrio of Buenos Aires, 13 of us along with our missionary friend Jon, made a commitment in February of 2002 to plant a new church in the city of Salto. Every Saturday we go to Salto about 120 miles west of Buenos Aires. It takes about two hours.”

The drive to Salto, allows us to see the cattle, sheep, horses, and windmills that are common along the way. About 40 miles from Buenos Aires we pass the town of Luján. The Basilica located here is Argentina's most important religious site. This grand structure was built in 1887 to honor the Virgin of Luján, the patron saint of Argentina. On October 5

each year as many as one million people walk from Buenos Aires to honor her.

Typical of Argentina, many small shrines are erected along the highways to honor other patron saints. This one for Difunta Correa is very popular among the people. Leandro says he came to this shrine to ask Difunta Correa to help his arm heal. He had cut it on glass. He comes here often to ask her to help his family and him. He truly believes that she can do these things.

Farming is the primary source of income in the area and the economy of this city of 35,000 is dependent upon it. Wheat, corn, soybeans and other grain crops produce excellent yields from the rich soil of the pampas. There are also several major agricultural processing plants here.

“The people in the church at Celina prayed for a year and then God just opened the gates. We can see God's hand everywhere. Every Saturday when we go to Salto we see God's hand. The church people are excited about what is happening in Salto. Every Saturday they say ... I want to go, ... but only 5 places are available in the pastor's car.”

Salto is a nice, friendly city. The city center reflects its Catholic heritage with the prominent location of the church on the square. Schools, stores, and office buildings are also located nearby. The affluent appearance of downtown Salto is not typical of its residential areas. The majority of the people live below the poverty level.

“Most of the homes are small and sparsely furnished. Some people have more than others. There are also those with very little like this family living by the railroad tracks in a shack made of scrap material. There is only a dirt floor. Dogs, as well as people, survive by picking through trash left by others. A couple lives here with their baby. Five days ago her niece and her six children moved in with them because they had no place else to go. These adults recently heard the Good News and chose to follow Jesus. Since then they have seen God answer prayer. He is here and, yes, they can smile and enjoy maté.”

Up until now evangelism has made very little impact on the people's lives. Common here is a low level of commitment to the Roman Catholic Church and a high level of saint adoration. One local saint in particular, Pancho Sierra has a tremendous grip on the people. He is known as "a famous doer of good deeds" who died December 4, 1891. Soon after, he was exalted to sainthood by the residents of Salto. They show their devotion by giving him homage for individual good fortune.

The cemetery located just across the street from the Pancho Sierra shrine is a reminder of the extremely high level of suicide among the young people of Salto.

In the midst of this lostness and bondage, the Villa Celina Church began to pray in late 2000. The next year an evangelistic effort began. This was done first by the use of music at a local festival to make contacts with people. The people of Celina talked with people in the central plaza, in their homes, and in the neighborhoods. Missionaries taught the residents about nutrition and dental health.

Things began to happen in Salto.

*... The people were receptive.
... A real hunger for spiritual truth was evident.
... The harvest of souls was underway.
... And they began to meet in homes of the people.*

After 7 months, there were over 25 active Bible Studies with at least 300 regularly participating. Each group leader is studying basic discipleship topics to deepen the faith and commitment of these new believers.

"Making cell groups is best because it works. First it is necessary to form a relationship and then to ask if the person wants to learn about God because if your friend asks you to do something, you are more interested and willing. I also travel to Salto on Wednesday afternoon to lead a Bible study at a home on a quiet dirt street. Sometimes we meet outside under the tree. An uncle of one of our member's stopped by when he saw us and listened to the singing and study."

The Club Sports Arena in the center of the city was the meeting place where we commemorated what God had done for the people of Salto. Join us as we remember this celebration service in October 2002.

"It is hard for me to get to Salto every Saturday and again on Wednesday but I am in love with God. He is precious to me. At Celina, we want to go where God wants us to be.

(footage of the work in and around BA for the background as the following is being narrated)

Will you be a part of reaching Buenos Aires for Christ by praying for the unreached sections of the City of Buenos Aires and the small towns outside the capital? We need workers to help us evangelize these unreached areas by using Bible distribution projects, children's ministries, and general evangelism. If you are interested, contact the Metro Team to find out how you or your church might be involved by working with us as volunteers or becoming prayer partners."

(fade to...)

PrayforBA@yahoo.com

www.byhisgrace.com/buenosaires



Take My Name to the Heart of the Peoples

Ch. 09 (13:40) Filmed November 2002

“It is not easy being an active Christian among the diverse political, economic, and religious backgrounds found at the National University of Córdoba. At this University, the 100,000 students are largely indifferent to religious teachings in general and view Christianity, at best, as a superfluous tradition. ... Students, however, aren't the problem ... they're the harvest!

Founded in 1573, the beautiful city of Córdoba, 400 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, is the home of this University, the first established in Argentina and the second in South

America. It is considered one of the most prestigious academic institutions on the South American Continent.

The Jesuits under the leadership of Bishop Trejo y Sanabria founded the Colegio Máximo in 1613 as a missionary training school. An embroidered example of the original university seal hangs in the Salón de grados, displaying the Latin motto, “Take my name to the heart of the peoples”. This motto still forms part of the official seal though most students don't know it. ... Today, the university population is largely unreached and untouched by the gospel, even though there are more churches, many dating from colonial times, per square mile in this city than anywhere in Argentina.

Some of the early work of the Jesuits was with the indigenous peoples of this area. Through this effort, the Jesuits disciplined these Native Americans, taught them trades, and encouraged them to develop settled agrarian communities. The Jesuits along with the Dominicans, and Franciscans, and other Catholic orders participated with the Spanish settlers and their descendants in building this important settlement on the trade route between the Viceroyalty of Lima and the colonies of the Río de la Plata.

Next to the original center of the university sits the oldest church in Argentina built by the Jesuits it is in the shape of a Latin cross. The nave, built as an inverted keel, the pulpit and the altarpiece carved in wood and gilded, make this church unique in Córdoba. The small Domestic Chapel represents the balance between exquisite aesthetics and precise engineering typical of the Jesuit buildings. In December of 2000, the UNESCO designated the ancient buildings part of the cultural heritage of all mankind.

Before the Jesuits worked with the university students, they first established a secondary school that still functions as the university-run high school of Montserrat. These buildings are also part of the international cultural heritage designation and feature a central patio with a fountain typical of much Spanish colonial architecture.

St. Teresa's Church and Convent was founded in 1628 and is typical of the many convents and monasteries in Córdoba. These churches, convents, monasteries gave rise to the phrase, "Córdoba de las campanas," "Córdoba of the bells," because of the many bells heard ringing across the city.

The grandeur of the Jesuit buildings and lands demonstrates their economic and political influence in Spain and its colonies in America. Fearing their growing influence in his empire, Charles III decreed in 1767 that all Jesuits be expelled from Spain and America.

Other religious orders, already in Córdoba before the expulsion of the Jesuits, continued the strong Catholic presence in the city and the entire country. The Jesuits returned to Córdoba in 1814 and continue to lead out in secondary and university education. Catholicism is the official religion of Argentina, and the Catholic Church traditionally exerts a strong influence in political, military, and economic interests.

Behind the Córdoba cathedral a statue and plaza commemorate the founder of Córdoba, Jerónimo Luis de Cabrera, who established the city in 1573. The original colonizers brought with them their families as well as teachers, clearly intending to establish themselves and to provide for the education of their descendants. This consistent focus on education has led Argentines to name the city, "La Docta," the Learned.

The statue of Dalmacio Vélez Sarsfield overlooks a busy hub where commerce and politics meet. Patio Olmos, a major downtown shopping mall and the headquarters of the Radical political party both overlook the same hectic intersection as the statue of Vélez Sarsfield, the author of Argentina's civil law code.

General Manuel Belgrano is the revolutionary war general who created the Argentine flag. The statue of Belgrano stands on a hill to the southwest of the city and marks the edge of the large municipal park called Parque Sarmiento that stretches over to the main university campus. Behind the park are many apartments in the neighborhood of Nueva Córdoba where most of the university students live.

The statue of General José María Paz honors this officer in the Argentine Civil War who defeated Facundo Quiroga in 1830, but was later imprisoned by the dictator Juan Manuel Rosas. This cordobés was the leader of the Unitarian party that opposed Rosas' Federal Party.

The Urban Man is a famous recent sculpture that shows all of mankind's creative inventions springing from his head. After the economic crisis at the end of 2001, an anonymous cordobés, or several cordobeses, painted eyes on the statue with tears falling. This was an honest reflection of the citizens' pain. ... The eyes and the tears have faded from the statue but not from the hearts of the people.

In all the vicissitudes of Argentine history, the university has continued its educational mission, training men and women who have governed and worked for their country. The influence of the university stretched through all of Latin America in 1918 when the student movement for the democratization of the teaching called the University Reform Movement influenced universities in other countries.

In spite of the rich history of the University of Córdoba, the original motto of the university still needs to be lived out, beginning in Córdoba. For most students Christianity is ... at best ... seen as a superfluous tradition that does not touch the hearts of these people. Christian students at the university reach out to their classmates and extend an invitation to you to join them in taking His name to the heart of these people.

Students come from very diverse economic backgrounds thanks to the free public education that has guaranteed ample access to this national university. Many come from outside the area to Córdoba, the second largest city in the country and also the commercial, agricultural, and industrial hub for central Argentina. Most of the city's 1.3 million Spanish-speaking people are of Italian decent.

The University has students and faculty throughout the city. The administrative offices and some of the schools of the University are located on the main campus ... including the Schools of Nursing, Social Work and Journalism, the College of Medicine, the College of Dentistry, and the College of Economic Sciences, to name a few. ... In different sections of the downtown, the College of Law, the College of Architecture, and the College of Languages among others, blend into the busy city center.

The meeting of the senate of the College of Languages, composed as it is of faculty, secretaries, students and graduates, provides an example of the democratization of education initiated with the Reform of 1918.

The School of Nursing provides an excellent opportunity to touch the lives of others as students work in the hospitals learning the practical aspects of caring for patients. The Children's Hospital has many patients who need not only medical care but also a kind word and a smile. Their age doesn't matter ... from a very young child to a pre-teen ... these children respond to someone who shows gentleness. Parents watch carefully as teachers instruct these student nurses in the interaction needed with each patient.

Many areas of volunteer activities are open to students of the University through their departments.

At a neighborhood center, one-on-one tutoring is done through the School of Social Work. Eliana, a law student, is tutoring 10-year-old Yanina in math. In another area, students are interacting with children through play. Their mothers are inside the church building participating in a nutrition program given by a social worker.

Living and attending school in Córdoba can be a good experience. As in any large city, there seems to be nothing lacking in ways to occupy free time. Restaurants with a wide variety of delicious foods at reasonable prices are easily located. The city's parks provide a place for building friendships. There is an abundance of stores in which to shop for food as well as clothing and other goods. The malls provide a place to window shop and spend a free afternoon.

For those who want to get out of the city, a good highway leads into the Sierras de Córdoba. Lovely San Roque lake area can be reached after traveling only about 45 minutes from Córdoba. Here a dam on the Rio Suquia has created a beautiful area for a day picnic or an overnight visit. The small towns surrounding the lake have places to stay while enjoying the water skiing, swimming, and other activities of this recreation spot.

The economic and political crisis that Argentina is experiencing has left many people ...especially young people ...looking for answers that only God can provide. The large number of students from outside of Córdoba who come to study at the University provides a population in transition that is open to change. This student population is relatively stable for extended

periods during the year because few live close enough ... or have funds ... to travel home very often. Students are concentrated in three neighborhoods. Nueva Córdoba is made up of high-rise apartment buildings and attracts most of the upper-class students. The Hipódromo and Alberdi neighborhoods have a variety of apartment buildings, boarding houses, and homes that may rent a room to students. These factors provide special opportunities for sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

A new group of missionaries in training is taking advantage of these opportunities to reach their fellow university students. These young adults are committed to reaching students where they are ... in the classroom ... in the park ... or in their apartments. Using a cell-group strategy, these students meet on a weekly basis for fellowship ... to share a time of prayer for each other ... and to learn from God's word. This provides a natural avenue for students to come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. As they are disciplined, they are encouraged to reproduce that which they have experienced, reaching out to others.

The students who initiated this movement are, by and large, believers who moved to Córdoba to attend the university. They came expecting to further their secular careers, but also desiring to serve God. In serving, many have found that God has not only called them to serve here in Argentina, but is calling them to pursue cross-cultural missions. Some sense God calling them to some of the most difficult peoples to minister to, those located in countries where traditional missionaries, especially those from the United States, can't go.

The University of Córdoba has become, once again, a missionary training school. The students ministering here need your help. They need you to pray. ... They need you to come and work alongside them and become a missionary in training too.

In April 2002, Baylor University signed an official exchange program with the University of Córdoba. An opportunity is now open for you to live in Córdoba studying Spanish in order to complete your degree requirements ... earning full credit ... while at the same time, participating in what God is doing among the students in Córdoba. Options include short term language study, for a few weeks, as well as semester long programs with Spanish language study as well as possible credit in other programs, depending upon the level of Spanish of the student. No matter the length of the stay, you can participate in ministry with your Argentine peers.

Experience the life and culture in Córdoba, Argentina. ... Attend the National University of Córdoba. ... Will you come? ... Serve the Lord and study in South America!

For more information visit: www.imbargentina.org



The Way of Peace

Ch. 10 (15:15) Filmed November 2002

Waiting in line to purchase a snack at school is far removed from the experience commonly found as fans proceed to the stadium of professional soccer games. The playful and unsupervised jockeying for the best choice of food for the mid-day meal will change as these children become adults and attend a professional soccer game. There the fun turns into an aggressive and mean-spirited effort to degrade and humiliate the opposing fans and their team.

Soccer teams and the top players are well known to this young generation of Argentines. They admire the jerseys worn by great players of today as well as the past. Here the signed jersey of the legendary Maradona is an item highly

valued and viewed with awe. Some follow him with religious zeal and view Maradona as a god.

Visions of fame and fortune seem within the grasp of some as they view awards for achievements of past heroes. At this point, life on a professional soccer team is only a dream.

The fun times of playing soccer, volleyball, and other sports in school is a way of developing life-long athletic skills, valued friendships, and the meaning of sportsmanship. For many, these positive attributes of sports are lost on the way to adulthood. Instead of treating sports as a game of skill and endurance in which few achieve a pinnacle of greatness, the focus of the soccer fans is on participating in a conflict based on intimidation and violence.

This food vendor is well prepared for the fans as they seek to gain access to the stadium. Hundreds of police are also well prepared for the fans. Police have their guns and clubs ready, television stations have their cameras running, and guard dogs are all waiting for the violence to erupt. Police helicopters are circling overhead. The use of horses further heightens the confrontational atmosphere that grips the environment surrounding the game. Display of power by the authorities has become the accepted method for limiting the destruction caused by the fans at the games. An example of this power is observed in the police lineup that the fans are required to pass through as they proceed to the gate. The entering fans are toughly checked for possible weapons. Even the water bottles must be left on the outside of the stadium.

Typical of these games, the fans of the visiting team receive the greatest amount of scrutiny by the police. The fans of this visiting team wear mostly blue garments signifying their team color. They enter at a different gate than that of the home team. Keeping fans of the opposing teams separated on their way to the stadium entrance as well as after they finally arrive in the stadium is necessary and accepted. Here, the red identifies the home team ... which also has its stadium painted red.

The fans portray their team allegiance not only with what they wear but ... when given an opportunity ... with interesting comments and actions.

0:15 – 1:20 (3 MEN)

3 men, - Boca is everything, everything, we come from Cordoba, so we are going to be champions!

0:25 - 39 sec. - (MAN)

David: What is BOCA to you?

Man – Everything, a passion, Boca is the biggest thing in the world.

David: Your dream for your family, being from Boca?

Man – It's all the same. Boca and my family are the same. Boca is my family.

1:00 – 1:15 (MAN W/ TATOO)

David: What is Boca to you?

Man with tatoo: Look, Boca is everything. Boca is my life, my passion. My mother gave me life, and Boca gave me my heart. Understand? And Diego is the greatest thing there is. He's the best.

Tattoos of their team symbol, pictures of their favorite player, as well as a variety of other designs are common.

This is not a place for women and very few attend. Fewer still are the children found among the fans. Youngsters who come with their parents are caught up in the pre-game rituals.

The conflict between good and evil is illustrated by this sign ... "Today, God against the devil". The devil is the symbol for a

major soccer team in Argentina ... Independiente ... the red team. These men desperately want the devil to win.

Members of the notorious barra brava make up a significant part of the fanatical supporters. Every team has a barra brava ... organized mobs that receive free tickets and transportation to the games in return for their allegiance and loyalty to the organization. These barras have been linked to extortion, drug dealing, political intimidation, and even murder.

The police recognize the influence and power of these mobs and make them wait until just prior to the beginning of the game to enter the stadium. They come ... in mass ... carrying large bags of flags to be used to excite the crowd during the game. The police require that the bags be emptied for inspection to insure that weapons and bombs are not brought in. Once past the police checkpoint ... taking their bags ... they rush into the stadium.

By game time, the stadium is full, the fans are roaring with excitement. Usually, explosives mark the start of the game. Somehow these have been sneaked inside past the guards. In this case, the red smoke, symbolic of the home team color ... that of the devil ... envelops one end of the stadium.

The fans never sit ... no seats have been provided. Once the game begins, the individual and small group fanaticism turns into an organized manifestation of their desire to dominate and humiliate the opposing force. This excessive display of emotion builds as the game continues. Urged on by the barra brava leaders ... the standing fans are whipped into a frenzied state of mind. They make cheers and gestures to signify their support of their team. Much of the chanting consists of inflammatory, derogatory, and obscene statements about the opposing team and their fans.

By the end of the game, emotions reach a point that results in chaos, violence, and ... in some cases ... loss of life as the opposing fans clash.

During recent years in Argentina, violence at soccer games has contributed to **Over 150 People Killed and hundreds of Serious Injuries with millions in Property Damage**

The historic Cabildo on the Plaza de Mayo continues to be a meeting place for concerned political, civic, business, and religious leaders. It was here in 1810 that the country's first independent government was formed. On this day the meeting is focused on the recommendation of new laws that would reduce violence. Some of the participants of the meeting expressed their thoughts about the subject to the media.

people have it in them to find peace in society so that everyone can have a decent quality of life.

The No More Violence Campaign is the tool the Lord has given us to reach this change...there is a lot of violence everywhere...the campaign is a very positive tool to change what no one has been able to change yet and what God wants us to change.

Enacting new laws is a difficult process and may not achieve the desired results. Furthermore, any change in the status quo would be strongly opposed by the barra brava.

The violence continues ... force and intimidation continues ... clubs, horses, dogs, and bulletproof vests are standard crowd control equipment ... but this is not the way of peace. ... A small group of people wearing black t-shirts with the white letters ... "No More Violence"... on the front and ... "a message from God" ... on the back is having a big impact. Using God's Word and a commitment to show love and respect to those that appear to deserve little, the men and women in this group are able to do what force cannot. The crowds respect this small band of messengers. The police stand back and appear more as observers than participants in the control of the over exuberant fans.

(Long pause)

One team member was told by a police officer: "If you don't calm them down we're going to get 'em. ... So he delegated his authority to me." Another team member was told: "Violence is a family tradition. My father taught me how to be violent."

(approx. 30 sec. no narration ... background sounds and video only of NMV group in action)

Putting on "the full armor of God", ... a vivacious young woman in her black shirt moves among the crowd watching for opportunities to intervene should volatile situations erupt. When asked about why she was involved in this dangerous work, this Christian warrior replied

David: Why are you all here today?

Belén: Because God believes that the city can change and **to plant what is in God's heart in our city.**

David: **How do people accept it?**

Belén: It's difficult. **Some will, because they have so much pain in their heart and they know they can't continue. For**

others, the pain blinds them so much that they don't want to receive love.

David: thank you

Belén: you're welcome

Once inside, restraints are relaxed and violence usually erupts in the stadium. In an effort to remind the crowd that violence should not continue, if possible, a huge flag is unfurled on the field of pro soccer games at halftime or before the games. The flag is carried out on the field by young people wearing the black t-shirts that have the same message as the flag, ... "No More Violence" ... "A Message from God". ... In this instance, the flag is displayed in a school playground for the camera since the Independiente Devils Team will not allow it to be displayed in their stadium ... believing that it will cause them to lose the game.

The No More Violence Campaign is carried out by local churches reaching across Argentina that wish to use this tool to reach their community. Currently, there is work being done in 30 cities related to the campaign.

Emanuel Baptist Church is one of the churches where people are stepping out with God. A group of young adults ... committed to helping bring change ... is led by two men ... sold out to God ... Tati, the pastor of the church and Darío, a father whose life has been dramatically changed as God brought him out of the barra brava. Listen as these men tell us why they feel it is so important to embark on this path of peace.

In my city, week after week, 40 to 50 thousand people come together in the stadiums. We could stay in church and pray for those lives, and that would be great, but we feel it's better to not only pray for them, but to go meet them.

What God did with my life...I have died to my old life. With Christ I was born again. Thanks to Him, I can be a testimony that things can change.

Located in a poor area known as a villa in Buenos Aires, Emmanuel is a church that never closes the doors to its building. It is a refuge for the street kids who live in the neighborhood providing them with a place of peace and love. Many of these kids desperately need a refuge ... a place where people talk gently ... a place where people care ... a place where people will listen ... a place for fun ... a place of safety and acceptance.

Every Saturday kids from the area eagerly come to Emmanuel for a special time. At the church, classes are held teaching them the way of peace. Walking to a nearby park, they play soccer and other sports. Through all the activities and interaction, kids are given the message from God ... No More Violence. Members of the No More Violence Team do this because the kids believe there can be change.

To be most effective, the "No More Violence" message must start long before the game. The words in Colossians 1:20 tell us that peace is at everyone's reach, they just don't know it. Peace is NOT the absence of violence but the PRESENCE of GOD in the hearts of the people. *The Way of Peace* begins with people who are willing to step out and start the process of demonstrating and teaching the meaning of peace.

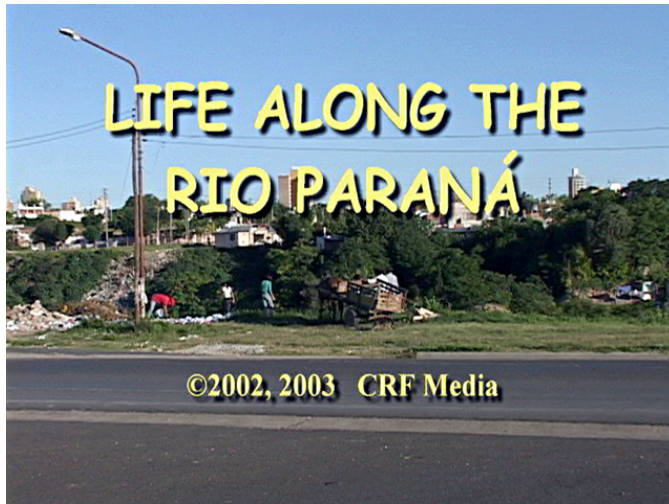
Working in the public schools sharing the same message of No More Violence is another extremely important avenue for reaching people. Those involved may be more visible at pro soccer games but their work continues with setting up the sports museum displays for the schools. David Balyeat, National Director of the No More Violence Campaign, and others are able to go into the schools and teach students about the effects of violence as well as presenting Christian principles. The team share on an individual as well as small group basis what God has done in their lives.

Unfurling the flag on the Plaza de Mayo before the Casa Rosada ... the Argentine version of the white house ... represents the desire of every team member to spread the message throughout Argentina. In 5 years over 5 million flyers have been distributed by Christian youth at the gates of stadiums, at schools, city events, etc.

God is doing some very exciting things through this campaign. Pray that children and people of all ages across Argentina would listen to the message from God and will see that they can know the peace that only comes from Jesus.

(overlay)

"True change happens one heart at a time."



Life Along the Rio Parana

Ch. 11 (12:17) Filmed November 2002

70 years ago Argentina was the 5th wealthiest nation in the world. It had one of the largest middle classes in South America and boasted of its European heritage. Today it is a land in which more than 50% of the people live in poverty. More than 20% are unemployed. Argentina's economy continues in the fifth straight year of decline. Armies of people survive by coming into the cities to sort through the trash seeking food and other items of value.

These people can be seen from the parking lot of an international superstore. On the hill above this spot is Parque Urquiza in Paraná, the capital of Entre Rios Province. Here one can relax on the steps and enjoy mate with a friend or

stroll by statues of great leaders of the past. Nearby are high-rise apartment buildings, ... office complexes, government buildings, ... and luxury hotels. Ornate cathedrals display the rich Catholic heritage of the provinces along the banks of the Rio Paraná ... Entre Rios on the east and Santa Fe on the west.

Along the eastern edge of the river is a beach that is empty now, but on Sunday people come to get away from Paraná, the crowded city of 250,000 people. The only activity is oarsmen taking advantage of this peaceful day to improve their skills.

While only 15 miles from each other, several rivers, lagoons and lakes separate the capital cities of Entre Rios and Santa Fe Provinces. They are so close that you can actually see Paraná from Santa Fe. The city of Santa Fe with a population of 500,000 has two professional soccer stadiums. The founding of this city dates back to the late 1500's.

The focal point of the city is Plaza Veinticinco de Mayo surrounded by buildings dating from the colonial times to modern additions. The provincial legislature proudly displays the Argentine national flag that appears to preside over the shiny vehicles in the parking lot. Nearby, street vendors display their handcrafted baskets. Business or friendly conversation can be conducted at one of the many outdoor restaurants within view of government office buildings.

Reflecting the city's Catholic heritage, the Catedral Metropolitana with its domed bell towers stands on the north side of the plaza. On the east side is the oldest church in the province built in the late 1600's.

For many, the shopping centers, high-rise luxury apartment buildings, dinner at a restaurant or enjoying family and friends at an asado is only a dream.

Those with wealth fiercely hang on to what they have. Once considered among the safest countries in the world, many now live inside their homes as if locked in a prison cell. Guards are ever present, bars are on windows, broken glass tops the edges of walls and roofs to keep would be thieves out, and police with guard dogs are used to provide extra security for some areas.

On the outskirts of the cities there is a dramatic change in the style of the homes. Some live in small brick buildings while others live in improvised shacks. Security and safety is also a problem in these poor areas known as *villas*. Neighborhood watches carefully scrutinize strangers entering the area. Survival for it's occupants depends on odd jobs, going through trash, and begging for food and money. Discouragement and disillusionment must be ever present in the minds of those who can see wealth but are unable to grasp it.

The highways lead to even more discouragement. Santa Fe and Entre Rios are renowned for having abundant wildlife and rivers well known for their game fish. The richest farmland in the world is here. It has been called the grain store of the world. Fields that are not planted in crops are filled with beef and dairy cattle.

Argentina has become the 4th largest exporter of food in the world.... At the same time, this is a country that is watching its children die of malnutrition. ... With a population of about 36 million people, it produces food to feed 200 million – yet 20% of her children are malnourished and 70% of her children live in poverty.

The farm workers in this strawberry field are paid an equivalent of 55 cents a day for the hard, back breaking seasonal jobs. Children learn early to help with the daily work of gathering firewood to fuel the improvised stove. The older siblings seem to take care of the younger children while the adults are working in the fields. Little time is left to attend the public schools. Teachers in the poorly equipped and crowded schools are not paid regularly. Frequently, teachers strike in an attempt to collect their salaries.

A sense of hopelessness has invaded the country. In name, Argentina is a Christian nation. Roman Catholicism is the official religion with enormous Catholic churches and yet only 15% of her people attend any type of church. Those that are involved have a very strong devotion to Mary and other saints and folk heroes. Every town and neighborhood has its own statue or shrine of its favorite saint. Many public events take place around the shrine. The government erects signs beseeching the Virgin of Lujan to guard travelers. In addition to this patron saint, the red flags and ribbons easily identify Gauchito Gil shrines. La Difunta Correa shrines are also common in the area and identified by the two liter water bottles stacked around the small statue of the saint. Argentina is a land filled with idolatry, unusual folk religions and superstitions.

In the mind of the average Argentine, missionary groups such as the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are viewed the same as Baptists and other evangelicals... simply non-Catholic. There is very little understanding of the Bible and of God's plan of salvation. Since the average Argentine works 6 days per week, Sunday is considered a free day when few people go to church. Instead, many Argentines spend Sunday cheering for their favorite soccer team with devotion that some have likened to their own personal religion.

For over 150 years, Argentina has had an evangelical presence, but only 5% of the population could be considered born-again Christians and less than ½ of one percent are Baptist. In the capital city of Santa Fe, it is estimated that only 2% of the population truly has a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

In the middle of the economic and spiritual crisis, "There is Life in Jesus" ... "Hay Vida en Jesús"... is proclaimed along the Rio Paraná. In partnership with local churches, missionaries in the provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Rios are involved in starting new churches. Working with the national pastors and local church members, they are mobilizing and training them to reach their fellow Argentines with the Gospel.

Efforts are underway to meet the physical as well as the spiritual needs of the people. The family business of making and delivering bricks provides a meager income for the large family living here. The mother and her ten children are now coming to the church in Coronda. She was embarrassed to bring her children to the church earlier because she felt they did not have suitable clothes to wear. She was given clothes and she and her children were in church the next Sunday. The father of this family still worships Gauchito Gil believing that he answers his prayers. He has built an altar inside the home as well as a shrine outside to honor this popular folk hero.

Finding sources of income is difficult in this area. Relief programs help feed the most needy during times of crisis, but self-help programs can provide long term income sources. A local landowner donated this garden plot. The residents living near here will be able to grow vegetables and sell them at roadside markets.

Working closely with the pastors of the Baptist churches in Coronda and Gálvez, a project is being planned to educate and help those in need. The goal will be to meet the pressing physical needs of the people while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with them.

Located next to an abandoned railroad track, this church is within walking distance of many. Courses are being taught in church planting, leadership training, discipleship, and evangelism to aid the rapid multiplication of these smaller churches. As a result, attendance, commitment, and spiritual growth are evident in the rural areas as people reach out to their family, friends, and neighbors.

Back across the river in a suburb of Paraná, cell groups are meeting in homes on a regular basis. Here people find not only fellowship but have an opportunity to learn more about God's Word and reach out in their neighborhood to people who have no church home.

Active preaching and teaching schedules of the missionaries requires significant travel throughout the provinces of Entre Rios and Santa Fe. In the church fellowship at San Benito, the Lord's Supper is celebrated for the first time. The church building is still under construction in this farm community of 20,000 outside of Paraná. It has little in the way of modern conveniences. The roads quickly turn to mud when it rains.

God is at work here in Santa Fe and Entre Rios, Argentina. The men, women, and children who have found new life along the Rio Paraná want to share their joy with you and solicit your prayers and encouragement.

Pray for such places as San Benito and San Martin, two small towns that now have new Baptist works.

Pray that God would raise up leaders for all these new churches.

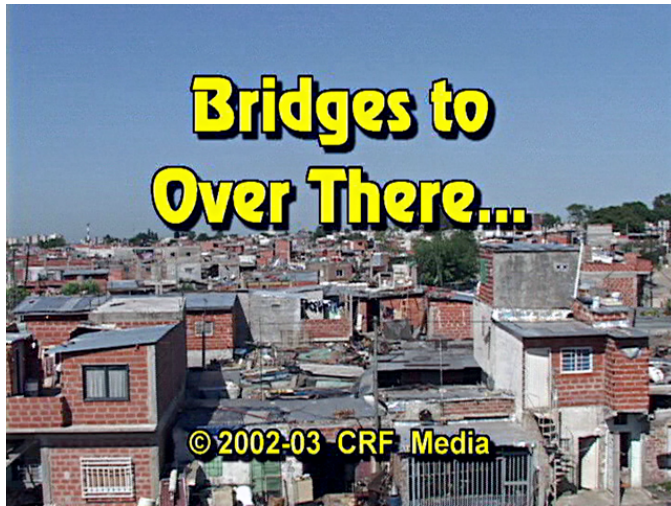
Pray for Guadalupe and other areas like it where there is still no evangelical church.

Pray for our Argentine brothers and sisters as we work together to bring New Life in Jesus along the Rio Paraná.

Will you COME as a volunteer?

BE A PART OF THE NEW LIFE ALONG THE RIO PARANÁ

For more information www.imbargentina.org



Bridges to Over There

Ch. 12 (7:35) Filmed November 2002

See that villa over there? ... It is the most dangerous in the area. ... DO NOT drive through here at night! ... Not even the edge like we are now. ... I sometimes hesitate to go through in the daytime. ... If you don't live there, you must stay away.

High-rise offices and apartment buildings, fast moving traffic, busy people ... a description of many places throughout the world and so it is in the capital city of Argentina.

But, ... in metropolitan Buenos Aires, ... in the shadow of indifference to religious teachings, ... a new movement is

underway. In some of the districts known as villas that make up a large part of this mega city of 13 million, people are discovering *Hay Vida en Jesús*, "There is Life in Jesus".

Each of the 47 villas that form the patchwork quilt of identities making up Buenos Aires has its own character. Some are the home of the rich and famous while others are part of an industrial district or consist of retail outlets. Some have a soccer stadium ... others have cobblestone pavements. Some live in beautiful homes or apartments ... others live in squalor. The contrast between the economic levels of those who reside in these communities is evident throughout the city. It is commonplace to see a very poor district in the midst of affluent high-rise apartments. Residents from the poor villas are easily seen as they scavenge through the throwaways in these affluent areas. Horse carts share the same streets as automobiles and busses.

Many of these villas pose no unusual concern for personal safety. Others are very dangerous. Visitors entering these areas risk not only robbery ... their lives are at risk as well. ... Gangs of young people patrol the streets providing some measure of protection for the residents ... but ... they will ... not ... hesitate to steal from visitors. ... Kidnappings are common. ... Police seldom enter the area.

In their struggle to survive, people from outside metropolitan Buenos Aires have come here in the hopes of finding employment. Immigrants from other countries also come here. Some of these villas are located within walking distance of large churches but, ... for the most part, ... little evangelical presence can be found.

The inhabitants are fiercely loyal and protective of one another and outsiders are not welcome. Those who are already accepted and known by the local residents are key to sharing the Gospel. They are the only ones who are allowed access to the people who live behind the barriers of suspicion, hatred, and fear. They are the ones that must serve as bridges to over there.

Pastor Pablo, leader of the congregation in Villa Celina is one of the bridges to over there. He knows the Villa Lugano district well. Even though the church building is located in a relatively safe area of the villas, an ever-present reminder of poverty and danger is only a short distance from their door. Pastor Pablo's vision is that some day a church will be located in the heart of the perilous area of Villa Lugano and these people will come to know that there is a new life in Jesus for them too.

In the midst of poverty that can be seen and felt, the residents of Villa Lugano have the same cares and concerns as those living elsewhere. For better or worse, the family unit remains a very real presence in areas like Villa Lugano. The problems stemming from alcohol and drug abuse eat away at the very core of the family structure. Through apathy and hopelessness, kids are often allowed to roam without limits.

The older children can be found at an improvised soccer field. The soccer field is a common meeting place for all and provides a momentary escape from the harsh realities of Villa Lugano. Homemade soccer fields can be found in just about every free space of land or vacant lot.

Out of desperation to improve their economic position, many residents of Lugano as well as thousands of other residents of the mega city of Buenos Aires play the national lottery. In addition to the lottery, many put their faith and money into a variety of superstitious beliefs with the hope that by some strange twist of fate their problems and desperation will be solved. On the way out of Buenos Aires, the high-rise buildings melt away, ... clean, shiny cars disappear, ... people wait patiently

for a bus ride to the big city, ... shopping centers have lost their glitter ... and streets have turned to mud.

There are no high-rise apartments here in Villa La Ferrere. Instead, the homes are small, masonry buildings. Most have a water tank perched on the roof.

The bars on the doors and windows provide some security for the residents. The school ... is protected by high walls and guarded steel doors. Inside the school compound ... the children and teachers are safe to play and study. They are also eager to pose for the camera..

Bridges to La Ferrere and other similar neighborhoods are under construction. Pastor Tito and the Tapiales church, along with the Metro Team, are actively training leaders to reach these communities with the Gospel and to eventually plant churches.

In the back of the church auditorium at Tapiales, a large poster depicts their mission outreach program, ... a chart highlights the cell group progress, ... and another chart lists the cell group leadership. The emphasis of the congregation is ... hearing ... studying ... and doing the will of God.

Aurora Mendoza, a leader in the Tapiales church, meets weekly with a group committed to this church planting process. Aurora explains what needs to be done to start a new work.

(Overlay: Go and Share)

(On camera Aurora)

“First we go to them and share our testimony with them.”

(Overlay: Cell Groups)

She goes on to say ... If they want to know more, we ask them to visit a small group ... a cell group ... meeting in a home.

(Overlay: Invite)

The hosts of the cell group will also invite their friends and neighbors to attend.

(Overlay: Relationships)

These small groups are where we can build relationships. This is important because we want to win souls to Jesus. In this friendly atmosphere, we can study the Bible together.

(Overlay: Grow)

As the cell groups grow, and have 40-50 attending regularly, it is then time to form a new church.

(Overlay: New Church)

This group is in the process of locating a place to rent as they form a new church.

Workers are needed to help evangelize these basically unreached areas.

(Overlay: Be a Bridge Builder)

You can be a part of the Bridge Building process. ...

(Overlay: Pray for Safety)

You can pray for the safety of those that go ... over there. ...

(Overlay: Bible Distribution)

You can help with Bible Distribution projects. ...

(Overlay: Children’s Ministries)

You can be involved in Children’s Ministries. ...

(Overlay: Interested?)

If you are interested in the construction project of building bridges to over there, contact the Metro Team for more information at ...

(Fade to...)

www.BapMisArg.org