

Dear Friends,

Vaqueros. Salta. 17 FEBRUARY 2010

The year 2010 finds us in the middle of much activity. We give thanks to the Lord for the strength and the spirit that He gives us, to face the challenges of each day. We have wanted to approach you to share something of what we are doing and reasons for prayer.

1-Saint Pedro de Jujuy, for several years we have been shepherding a church in countryside, surrounded by citrus and sugar cane plantations. The place is **Rodeito**. This congregation is in charge of a Deacon called Delia Rosemary. We have obtained an important land grant donated by the Government for us to construct a centre and to develop tasks for aid to the community. This centre will be used:

To prevent drug addiction and alcoholism among young people.	Scholastic support for children
Help for single women, mothers and those suffering family violence.	Literacy for adults.
Crafts and cooking and work qualification for micro projects with women.	Meetings for prayer and Bible study

In this place three deacons are being prepared. The majority of the members are dedicated to small scale financial giving.

In the next days we will be travelling to bless 10 marriages that are already families. *(have had their civil wedding)*

2- Charity status. For a time this new Diocese has been counting on a Foundation, which we have been reorganizing this past week. The intention of this foundation is to have a visible face before the government and power to channel donations, in order to be able to support the urban and indigenous work.

3- Salta; San Silvestre: The government will also donate land here to the community to develop the following ministry:-
Family council and single mothers. Children's aid – Medical attention
Assessing the legal rights of the people. Dining room for 60 children

We are trying to work together with the Under-secretary of youth to face the urgency to fight the PACA. *(Drugs???)* The hall that we wish to construct will be for all these uses and a place of meeting and prayer.

4- In the rural area or older towns. We are making a project for all the ethnic groups of the province of Salta to be presented/displayed in the House of Representatives of the Nation. There are nine ethnic groups, plus three more that need to be recognized. The project will count on the following proposals;

- a) A hostel is needed where the Indian peoples can stay and look after themselves when they arrive in Salta.
- b) To encourage university studies by Internet to enable the young people gain a qualification for work.
- c) Creation of an agricultural school, where it is possible to be taught bee-keeping, cattle ranching, agriculture and reforestation.
- d) Availability of FM radios to enable and to inform to the communities. This project is already under way
- e) To intensify the crafts work source and income for family groups: including storing and sale.
- f) Creation of a bee-keeping cooperative, for the sale of honey and its derivatives.
- g) To encourage agriculture and bee-keeping in family groups.
- h) To make an evaluation about the young people who have finished their secondary studies, and what their needs are.
- i) Creation of community centres, for relaxation for the young people.
- j) Drinking water needed in many communities.
- k) Urgent need to bring back to consciousness and for education about sanitation.

We have the good news of the Radio 'ALPHA AND OMEGA' OF JUÁREZ, Prov. of Formosa. They are about to increase the power of the radio transmitter. This radio station has been transmitting in the Wichí, Toba and Spanish languages for twelve years. It has great reception reaching 150 km. This week I am sending letters to 80 Pastors and Deacons to give them spiritual support. Letters go to the interior three times a year because I know how much they wait for them. In these next months we are moving forward with the church and we are preparing to ordain two pastors in the rural areas.

In spite of our precarious situation, in the middle of great deprivations, we understand that the Lord has allowed us the possibility of experiencing what it means to live by FAITH. Only thus can we understand how the brothers in the interior and the marginalized ones in our country live. Often we were tempted to "jump ship", exhausted and wishing to go by another way. We have been working to find funding, in these next days as we wait for open doors and blessings. In spite of many difficulties we have been able to advance, and do specific things. The continuous calls from our indigenous brothers, their letters and requests for aid encourage us to keep working for them. So we give thanks that they support us so much in prayer and financially. We wish to share with all the advances of the missionary work and our firm desire to continue promoting the salvation of souls, and giving community aid.

We share motives for prayer;

- 1 The need for resources and means to begin to evangelise to the many communities where the Gospel has not yet arrived.
- 2 During many years I have worked for land rights for the natives. I continue in the fight see and it coming closer, in FAITH we are redoubling the effort in contacts with the government.
- 3 We need a person to coordinate the work in San Silvestre.
- 4 For future arrangements of pastors, and priority of work.
- 5 That our children can continue with their studies.

We are so thankful to be supported by your brotherly affection. We send our blessings and we pray that in these times of crisis we take new strength to continue believing in God. We share Psalm 91 with you.

We send a hug, + Bishop Humberto Axt.