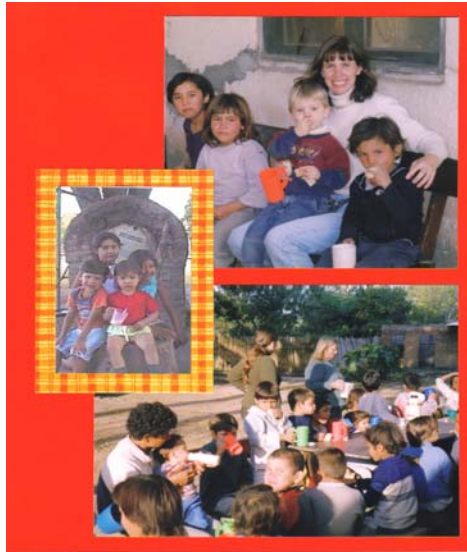


Argentine Adventure:

Exploring the mission and ministry of Global Ministries in Argentina.



April, 2002

Global Ministries is the combined overseas mission initiative of the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) and the United Church of Christ.

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This small congregation in Vedia, Argentina finds big ways to share the love of Christ with their community. They serve bread and milk to over 50 children each Sunday afternoon. They bake the bread in the oven pictured above which is made out of an old barrel and homemade bricks. On February 5, 2010 this congregation lost their roof in a tornado. Nobody was injured and they continue to serve God faithfully. Global Ministries, as well as Church World Service, have contributed monetary aid (through your donations!) to our many partners in Argentina including Vedia.



Photo: Vedia, Argentina; Feb. 5, 2010

iListo, Ya!, (Get ready, Go!)

Welcome to Argentina

You will find the Argentine people very welcoming. They will welcome you into their homes with a kiss on each cheek and then offer you some maté to share. Maté is a traditional drink similar to tea. It consists of herba maté which are tea leaves poured into a cup often made out of a dried gourd. Hot water (never boiled) is poured over the maté leaves and then the cup is passed around and shared by all with a special common straw. Children do not drink it this way. They prefer maté cocido which is maté cooked in a large pot. The liquid is then poured into individual cups and sometimes milk is added. Sugar is always added as maté is otherwise very bitter.

The Disciples of Christ church has been present in Argentina since 1906. We currently have four congregations in the capital city of Buenos Aires as well as four in the Northern Argentine province of Chaco. Many of these churches are ecumenical churches which means they are made up of more than one denomination. For example, the congregation named Buen Pastor (The Good Sheppard) is both a Disciple of Christ congregation and a United Methodist congregation. This is a great way to share our common traditions as well as learn some new ones. Do you think you would like to visit this church?

As a missionary, I was able to work at many of our churches. First, my husband, Tim, and I arrived in Buenos Aires at La Iglesia de los Discipulos de Cristo en Saavedra. Can you figure out what that name means? I'll give you a hint, iglesia means church in Spanish. This congregation welcomed us and then we got right to work. Tim was the pastor here while I rode about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours by bus to Tablada. This is where we have another church.

Tablada is a town outside of the big city of Buenos Aires. Did you know that Buenos Aires is the 8th largest city in the world? Tablada is an area where most of the families do not have jobs. The church here offers a place for the children to come before or after school. They get to eat lunch as well as breakfast or a snack. This will probably be the only food they have that day. They also have an area to play their favorite sport of soccer as well as other games. They get help with their homework and a place to shower. One year we painted a mural with a beautiful rainbow. The kids designed the mural and also painted it. What a great way to brighten the world.



Sunday school at the Disciples of Christ Church in Saavedra, Argentina



The Tablada Church and Community Center. The mural says, Protection for our environment, "We are fighting for a better life"



The sanctuary in Tablada. Does it look like your church?

Here are some ideas for your rotation centers:

Crafts

- **Spinning Tops** - The children at Tablada community center made spinning tops from used liquid glue bottle tops and discarded CDs. Paint all the CDs white on one side ahead of time. The kids can then use permanent markers or paint to decorate them. Take apart the glue top and place the CD between the pieces and reattach. Next, wind a piece of string around the white part, place a pencil or similar shaped object into the hole at the top and pull the string. A fun game played in Argentina is called, La Dura. It's simple, the person who get's their top to spin the longest, wins! It is fun to practice and this can also be used to determine who will go first at the next game.
- **Bottle cap magnets** - Paint the top of bottle caps a solid color, then glue a magnet to the back. Children can then paint and decorate them.
- We also made our own **recycled paper** as well as **puppets**. These are complex activities that are made over several days.
- A favorite with the kids at the Tablada Community Center was **stress relief balls**. They are fun to squeeze as well as give for gifts. To make these you will need at least one balloon for each child, flour, small funnels (we used small plastic bottles with the bottoms cut off), dowel rods (or old pencils), and paper cups.

Here is what to do: Cover the table and floor with disposable table cloths (it's messy!). Stretch the balloon by blowing it up and then let the air out. Put the mouth of the balloon over the funnel. Fill the balloon via the funnel and cup with flour. The dowel rod (or similar object) is needed to push the flour into the balloon. Once the balloon is about the size of your palm, tie it shut. Another balloon can be added over the end to make it stronger and more colorful.

- Any craft made with colored paper is also fun and Argentine children would love it.

Games

Soccer is the all time most popular game in Argentina. This can be made friendlier by using a large, inflatable ball.

Other sports that Argentine children enjoy are; rugby, handball, volleyball, and swimming. Jump rope, hand string games, tag and hopscotch are also popular.

Chair game - Each child needs a chair he/she can stand on (folding chairs are not good for this game). Everyone stands on their chair. Each child counts off so that everyone has a number. The leader then calls out two numbers and these children need to switch places by walking on the occupied chairs. The one who gets to the other person's place first wins. Nobody is out. The game continues with the leader calling out another two numbers.

Race for the ball - Divide the children into two teams. Each team numbers off so each child has a number. The teams stand at opposite sides of the field or gym on a line or touching the wall. A ball is placed in the middle between the two teams. The leader yells out two (or more) numbers and those children run to try to be the first to the ball. They kick the ball with their feet and try to get it to their line before somebody on the other team can take it. This is also played in the United States so many of the children may be familiar with how it is played.

To make the above games more challenging for older children try using the Spanish names for the numbers or try colors or animals instead of numbers.

Continent Ball - Divide the children into teams. Each team represents a continent. Two teams or up to 7 teams for larger groups is fine. Each team is given a parachute (blankets or sheets are also fine) and they form a circle around it. They are then given a few inflatable or similar balls to bounce around on the parachute. They can try to see which continent can bounce the balls the highest, longest or in a certain direction. They may also try to get their balls to another continent's parachute while other groups are trying to share their balls with them. Think about how many things you have that are made somewhere else. Do you think Argentine children have anything that is from the United States? One time, somebody asked me if we had Coke in the United States 😊

Cooking (Look for recipes on line or in cultural cookbooks)

- **Dulce de leche** - The easiest way to make this is to boil a can of sweetened condensed milk. Another fairly easy, and tastier way, to make it is to use a recipe like this one.
Heat 1 can evaporated milk, 3 cups whole milk, and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking soda. Stir constantly and remove from heat once it boils.
In another pan combine 1 cup dark brown sugar with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water. Heat on low until the sugar dissolves (approx 2-3 minutes).
Add this sugar mixture to the first pan of warm milk.
Cook over very low heat; stirring frequently for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
It will thicken and turn a caramel color. Serve warm (not hot!) or cold. Cover and refrigerate until ready to eat. (I once asked someone how long it could stay in the refrigerator before it got bad. They told me that nobody knows because it is always eaten so quickly! ☺)
- **Media lunas** (half moons) - croissant rolls. These can be homemade or just home baked. The Argentines eat theirs with a glossy coating of sugar on top. Sometimes they are stuffed with dulce de leche. Yum!
- **Chimi churri** - traditional sauce for grilled meat. It is easy to make and could be sent home in small jars with each child or served at a community meal.
- **Empanadas** - meat turnovers. Actually, these yummy stuffed creations can be filled with almost anything including, chicken, creamed spinach, and creamed corn. The hardest part is making the dough. You may be lucky enough to have a store nearby that sells tapitas which are frozen or refrigerated dough circles ready made for filling. Pizzerias in Argentina deliver these as well as pizza and calzones. This is what churches in Argentina commonly serve at potlucks. No forks required! Everyone has their specialty and they often find a way to mark the dough so you know who made them and/or what is inside.
- **Noquis** - potato pasta. This is very inexpensive and often eaten at the time of the month when families are waiting for their next pay check.
- **Churros** - Just like in Mexico but filled with dulce de leche. In our neighborhood of Saavedra, there was a man on a bike selling these delicious treats every weekend morning near our house. We sometimes bought them on our way to worship.
- **Serve** with warm tea or chocolate milk

Music -

Here are some songs/prayers used before eating:

Half speak first, other half repeat

Bendice el pan (repeat)
Que comemos hoy (repeat)
Todos unidos (repeat)
Por tu gran amor (repeat)
Amen (repeat)

Translation -

*Bless the bread
That we eat today
All together
By your great love
Amen*

Gracias Señor - Thank you oh Lord

Gracias Señor, oh Gracias Señor, Gracias Señor, Amen
Thank you oh Lord, oh thank you oh Lord, Thank you oh Lord, Amen
Aguyje ore Ru, oh Aguyje ore Ru, Aguyje ore Ru, Amen
Obrigado Senhor, oh Obrigado Senhor, Obrigado Senhor, Amen
Grazie Signore, oh Grazie Signore, Grazie Signore, Amen
Danke oh Herr, oh Danke oh Herr, Danke oh Herr, Amen
Merci Seigneur, oh Merci Seigneur, Merci Seigneur, Amen

(Spanish, English, Guarani [native Argentine language], Portuguese, Italian, German, French)

Songs sung in Argentina (in Spanish) that might be in church hymnals

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
We are walking in the Light of God
We are one in the Spirit
Spirit of the Living God
Holy, Holy, Holy
We are gathered in the Spirit
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
Jesus loves me
When the Poor Ones who have nothing

Also consider music about sharing, understanding and caring for others

We Are the World
Welcome Children
He's got the Whole World in His Hands
Pass it on
All God's Children have a place in the choir

An Introduction to Argentina



<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/southamerica/Argentina/mapquiz/>



Continent – South America

Capital – Buenos Aires

Population – 39, 538,000

Size in area – 1,072,157 square miles (2,776,889 sq km)

Comparative Size – Slightly less than 3/10 size of United States

Language – Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French

Did you know these facts about Argentina?

- Argentina is the 8th largest country in the world
- Argentina's tallest mountain is Aconcagua at 6,960 meters high and the lowest point at -40 is Salinas Chicas located on the Peninsula Valdes
- The popular dance called the Tango started here
- Argentina is very long; it has rainforests and giant waterfalls in the extreme North, rich plains to the North which are called the Pampas, flat rolling plateaus in Patagonia which is in the south, and the rugged Andes mountains along the western boarder with Chile.
- Argentina produces a lot of sunflower seeds, lemons, soybeans, grapes, corn, tobacco, peanuts, tea, wheat, and livestock. In fact Argentina is the third-biggest producer of beef in the world
- The unemployment rate is 20% and 37% of Argentines live below the poverty line
- 96.2% of Argentines (boys and girls) can read

References - factmonster.com/ipka/A0107612.html, Worldfactsandfigures.com

References and helpful web sites

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk

Churchworldservice.org

They have several videos on U Tube that could be used during assembly time or story time. They also have a lot of good information for adults and older youth.

Col, Jeananda. Enchanted Learning. <http://www.EnchantedLearning.com> 1996

Common Spanish words and phrases which can be used to make a matching game

free-puzzles.net – personalized word searches and crossword puzzles can be created on this website

Globalministries.org

Journey to India, Journey to Congo, and other country specific stories and information. There are some great resources for special giving opportunities.

"<http://sf.factmonster.com/ipka/.html>." Fact Monster.

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10 March. 2010 <<http://sf.factmonster.com/ipka/A0107612.html>>

Kidactivitys.net - Around the World Themes

Pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/

www.PrintableMaps.net - This website has fantastic maps of each continent

Worldfactsandfigures.com