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Appendicitis in Argentina – 2012

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From: David Bennett**To:** David Bennett**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2012 3:20 PM**Subject:** Appendicitis in Argentina – 2012

Appendicitis in Argentina – 2012

I arrived in Argentina on Thursday, April 27, for two weeks of anticipated ministry. On Saturday, April 29, at 3:30 am I woke up with terrible stomach pains. I could not sleep.

At 8:00 am, missionary Manuel Caceres and I were to go into Buenos Aires for a day of teaching in Victoria Baptist Church. We would be teaching from 10 am to 6 pm about Deaf ministry. We arrived at 9 am. However, my pain was getting worse. I asked to be taken to a pharmacy where we could get some stronger medicine for the pain. Maybe that would help me to get through the day. We asked for something strong and I took it immediately.

We did not start until 11 and God helped me through the first hour much better than I expected. However, when I finished speaking, I could not eat, but went straight to bed for 3 hours. They did not wake me up for my next session!

Finally, at 3:30 we started again, but I was not the next one to speak. While Manuel was speaking, I grew steadily worse. I asked God to help me through the afternoon. But the hour came when I asked to be taken to the hospital.

The pastor of the church, Leo Company, and an Argentine friend, Andres Altamirano, took me to a nearby public, government-subsidized hospital. I did not have to wait long in the emergency room as it was almost empty. As soon as I was admitted the emergency room filled up. I had an X-ray and was asked a ton of questions, doing my best to respond in Spanish.

After falling asleep for a long time, I was finally diagnosed with appendicitis. I asked for a second opinion, hoping for a different analysis. A specialist was called in and confirmed the diagnosis. My friends said that this hospital would only do surgery if it were the last or only option. Then I was told they would operate in 15 minutes.

I woke up after emergency surgery. I spent the next 4 days in the hospital. I seemed to be doing OK the first day or two, but the last two days were not so good. I was glad to get out of the hospital. Manuel and his wife live outside the capital and so took me to her parent's house where I am trying to recuperate. I have been here for a week.

A nurse has been coming in daily and squeezing out my guts. (Well, actually she has been squeezing out body juices, but not getting any pus.) I was not improving as I expected! Getting in and out of bed was still causing discomfort, if not pain. My appetite was not normal.

I cancelled all my preaching and teaching commitments both in Argentina as well as in Brazil. Apparently, God had other plans for me.

I returned yesterday, Tuesday, to the hospital to get my stitches taken out. However, the doctor opened me up and stuck in his finger, which released a small explosion of pus. I had not taken any pain medicine for hours, having left it at the house. That was a mistake! He decided to leave three of the four stitches in place.

I was supposed to return to Brazil a week ago, but have been here in Argentina instead. I was hoping to fly out today, but the doctor would not give me permission. I am supposed to go back to the doctor again on Saturday. I have had to change my return flight to Brazil twice already. I am scheduled to return to the USA on Thursday, May 17.

Today, the nurse came and she was able to get more pus out of the incision. I am now taking antibiotics for the infection.

Please pray for this infection to go away, and for me to be able to travel on Monday to Brazil, and then to the USA on Thursday. I have been gone since April 16.

Bethany, our second daughter, arrived safely in Brazil today, where she will serve the Lord for a year in the area of music in a BIML church plant. I trust to see her for a while when I arrive in Sao Paulo, on Monday. My brother, Dan, and his family are also in Sao Paulo and I want to be able to spend a few hours with them before returning Stateside.

We praise the Lord that Samuel has received the needed funds for his missions trip to the Deaf Nation World Expo with me this summer. Funds for Jonathan's trip have been coming in, but more are still needed for his trip to Argentina with IBJM to do Jewish evangelism. We also praise God for providing for Bethany's expenses for the next year in Brazil. Our supporters are some of the best and we praise God for you all. It is so exciting to see God work in the lives of our kids in the area of missions!

Pray for the salvation of my nurse, Andreia, who comes in to care for me daily. Today, I was able to witness extensively to her. I was also able to witness in the hospital and to give a Gospel DVD to the daughter of my roommate, Carlos.

Lastly, while I was in the emergency room, Pastor Leo met a Deaf couple and their two children. They have been in contact with them several times since then. Pray that this will be the beginning of a Deaf ministry in this church and that this Deaf couple, and their children, will be saved.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Thank you for your prayers!

For Lost Deaf Souls Worldwide,

David Bennett
Director SWMI
www.swmi.org
Psalm 2:8

Making a Spiritual Difference in the World of the Deaf for the Glory of God

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God"

– William Carey, who is called the father of modern missions

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

– Hudson Taylor