

Do you know the capital of Argentina? It's Buenos Aires, which means "Good air!" It's in the eastern part, on the Rio de la Plata, which is the widest river in the world. Not long ago a bridge was built across the river there to join Buenos Aires with Montevideo, which is the capital of Uruguay - it's the longest bridge in the world! Here's a puzzle about place names:

BIBLE PLACE PUZZLE

See if you can find a town or place name mentioned in the Bible that begins with each of the following letters:

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| A _____ | clue: Joshua 7:4,5 |
| R _____ | clue: Acts 28:14 |
| G _____ | clue: 1 Samuel 17:4 |
| E _____ | clue: Genesis 39:1 |
| N _____ | clue: Jonah 3:3 |
| T _____ | clue: Matthew 15:21 |
| I _____ | clue: 1 Chronicles 23:1 |
| N _____ | clue: Luke 2:51 |
| A _____ | clue: Acts 17:16 |



Here's an activity you could do - get a map of the world and see if you can find all the countries that we have told you about in the World Kids PAL Pages over the past two years. There are 20 in all!

If you would like to learn about what life is like for children in a specific country, let us know and we'll see if we can highlight that country in a future World Kids PAL page!

Have a great summer (or winter, if you live in the Southern hemisphere!) 'Til next time,

love, Shirley.


Here are the answers to the puzzle - (Ai; Rome; Gath; Egypt; Ninevah; Tyre; Israel; Nazareth; Athens)

Facts about Argentina from www.cia.gov

World Kids PAL Page is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX.

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World Kids

Fun facts for kids!  *True stories!*

PAL Page

Issue no. 20 June 2005



In which country can you find people dancing the tango in the streets?

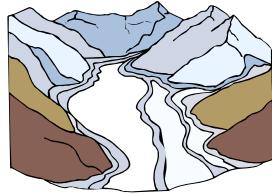
The tango is a very colorful and difficult dance that is sometimes seen in movies - yet if you are walking along a street downtown in a city in ARGENTINA, you may suddenly come across a couple dancing the tango! Argentina is a fascinating country of many contrasts, and we are going to tell you about it this month.

Argentina is the second largest country in South America with over 1,072,000 square miles of land - making it almost one-third the size of the United States! Yet Argentina has a much smaller population - only about 39 million people. Most of its inhabitants are of Spanish or Italian descent, and so it is not surprising that there is a very noticeable European influence especially on the food and fashions.



The Argentine flag consists of two pale blue stripes with a white stripe between, and on the white stripe is a yellow sun with a human face.

The land of Argentina is very varied and ranges from the the tallest snow-covered peak of the Andes Mountains (at almost 23,000 ft) in the West, through the fertile "Pampa" plains (where most of the population lives), and the rocky, windswept land of Patagonia in the South, to the very southernmost tip of South America almost in Antarctica!



That most southerly part of the country was well-known for centuries as "Tierra del Fuego" or Land of Fire, as ships battling winds and high seas to pass around the tip of the continent to get from the Atlantic to the Pacific, saw fires burning on the rocky coast.

The history of Argentina has also been very tumultuous, and even only 20 years ago, it was a very dangerous country! There was great corruption and many battles between different political groups - in the 1980's thousands of good, hard-working people like teachers and business leaders, "disappeared" and were never seen again! Then the famous dictator, Peron, was overthrown and things started to change for the better. His widow, Eva Peron, became famous as she used her money to help improve the country again by building hospitals and so on.

Argentina has many beautiful buildings, museums and parks, and as industries grew, theatres, restaurants and hotels attracted visitors from around the world. Stores had the latest technology and fashions, and cafés offered delicious foods from Europe: mouthwatering quiches (savory pies) from France, heavenly icecreams from Italy and rich, tempting cakes and desserts from Germany.



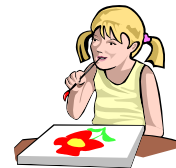
Life looked good, but the country had huge foreign debts. Then in 2002 there was a sudden economic crash that affected everyone in the country. Many people lost their jobs and then their homes - now, in 2005, still about 44% of the population is living below the poverty line! That means that families can't buy anything new; if the car breaks down, they cannot repair it; they pass by the lovely stores and restaurants but can't buy anything - but must eat soup and inexpensive foods at home.

The story of Argentina makes us think about our own lives - many of us live very comfortable lives, with good food and nice homes. We sometimes complain because we cannot do or have something we want, but we never think that anything bad could really happen to take it all away from us! Jesus tells us a story about a man who took his rich life for granted - you can read it in Luke 12:16-21.

True story! When I visited Argentina last year, I lived with people in their homes and saw how hard it is for many of them. I spent several days in a Christian school in Rosario, the second largest city, and I was able to tell the children about life in other countries - especially in countries like India, Cuba, Saudi Arabia and North Korea where many people are very poor and often are trapped by the lies of other religions, or are persecuted for believing in Jesus Christ.



When the children (and adults!) in Argentina learned this, they realized that many people's lives are far worse than even their own, and wanted very much to do something to help. Of course, they had no money to give, but then I told them about the Christians who are imprisoned in Egypt that we help. Immediately the children realized that they could do TWO



things: each child in the school drew a picture and wrote in English "Jesus loves you" and then signed his/her name; and they decided to pray for the prisoners and others around the world who are suffering or live very difficult lives.

I sent all the children's drawings to Egypt, where the prisoners were so very blessed to receive them and learn that on the other side of the world, some young children prayed for them and wanted to show their love. One of the teachers in Rosario, Miriam, is my friend and we keep in touch. She speaks Spanish (like all Argentines) and has a very special ministry of teaching and encouraging children to pray for other people's needs. She shares prayer requests and answers to prayer via the Internet and many children are learning that God hears their prayers and answers them! Remember that God hears YOU too!