



Dear Friends,

We write this a few days before Andrew takes off for three weeks of field work with Compassion International's church partners in East Africa. It's been a busy few weeks and it's high time to catch up with you and share some of our news (before things get even busier).

### Environmental outlook

The Guardian recently ran a very good article titled "[Soy destruction in Argentina leads straight to our dinner plates](#)", on the link between deforestation in Argentina and dinner plates in the UK! Did you know this? ... *"...the UK is particularly dependent on Argentine soya. In the year up to August 2018, according to HMRC data, just over 50% of all imported soya meal came from Argentina; 1m tonnes, worth nearly £300m. Argentina's forests are being served up in European farm animal feed troughs, and on its dinner plates."*

The journalist, [Uki Goñi](#), focused on the issue of deforestation and soy here in Salta and Andrew was able to provide him with access to some of the data that is included in his account. The article is well worth reading as it



highlights the global links between Europe's consumption of soy derived from the very lands we have tried to protect from deforestation over the past decade or so.

This picture, included in the article, shows an area of approximately 10 000 hectares of forest that we and others, including Greenpeace, sought to protect and sadly failed. It formed an integral part of the forests used by several wichi indigenous communities located towards the top left corner of the photo.

### Teaching the younger ones...

Maria insists that one of Andrew's main passions is teaching. In response to that he has accepted requests for talks to young people. Over the past weeks he has lectured to a group of final-year law students at the Universidad Nacional de Cordoba (UNC). Included in that audience was Cecilia, who arranged for this to happen! It turns out that one of the key case studies used to teach environmental law (and indigenous rights) is an issue we have worked with over the past years, so her professor was keen for him to talk about that.

A friend in Salta who teaches English invited Andrew to talk to her students, most of who come from very influential families, so they make a good target audience!

Last week he addressed a small group of first-year environmental science students at the Universidad Nacional de Salta (UNSA). He was encouraged by the keen level of interest, but equally alarmed by the fact that most young people have little or no idea about climate change.



## La Caldera

At the time of writing, our contractor reports they have completed 38% of the construction of new dormitories in La Caldera. Early rains have slowed down the work and inflation has driven up costs quite significantly – but we battle on! Work is also being done on changing the roof and painting a bungalow on the same property.



The new dormitories take shape! Four new rooms, each with en suite bathroom and solar heated water supply. Large gallerias provide meeting space.

## Compassion International

As mentioned above, Andrew will be in East Africa over the coming weeks. He will be conducting research with young adults who have benefited from Compassion's support in Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia. This trip comes after a bit of a lull in long-haul travel, with more recent trips having been limited to South America. He will travel to West Africa in January, giving the chance of a brief stop-over in the UK to say hello to family.

## Family

Tomas has submitted his thesis for final checking by his tutor. Once corrections are made it is time for submission! Cecilia sits her final exam on the 20th December, which will mean Maria and Andrew will be travelling to Cordoba for the great moment. Graduation here is traditionally marked by shaving the new graduate's head prior to pelting them with eggs, flour and paint, before placing them in an open boot of a car or the back of a truck and parading them through the city centre whilst honking the horn!!!

Carolina is now studying for her year-end final exams. She and her boyfriend will be travelling to the UK, Ireland, Scotland and France after Christmas.

## Prayer Pointers

Please pray for the following points:

- For Andrew's trip to Africa, and for Maria as she stays home alone (with the seven hounds).
- For the search for a flat to rent for Carolina for the next two years in Cordoba (not an easy task!)
- For Cecilia and Tomas as they seek to define their next steps following graduation.

Please do email us if you want further detailed news, it is always good to hear from you!

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