

# Comodoro Rivadavia – Patagonia Argentina

## Saint John the Baptist Information

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*Hello all! Greetings from Comodoro Rivadavia. Finally, here we are again.*

*I apologize for the time in which you haven't received any news from us.*

*Thanks for your letters, prayers, partnership and presence during that time.*

*Let's have a look at what we were doing during that time*

*Blessings!!!!*

*Pastor Gustavo Gómez*

**Childrens Biblical encounters:** since august 2004 we start to share a moment with some biblical activity, time for play and a cup of milk with cookies. We meet each Sunday from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. About 10/12 children attend the encounters. Monica Herrera and the pastor are the leaders. Is an interesting experience in that people from the church and from the Caring Mothers share time together. The group is exceptionally faithful (between the encounter or a birthday party (at the same time), usually they prefer the biblical encounter... really this is not so common!). And we expect to increase the next Christmas.



**Adult instruction:** in December 2004 we read an introduction to the Lutheran perspective thru the book "Bautizados vivimos" (baptized we live). It's a fast and clear view of Luther's history, the theology of the cross, our sacramental understanding, and the challenges for all that live as Christian people in community today. The author's name is Daniel Erlander.

In the first time, two women attended the activity, and we received them as SJBC members last December. They are: Lidia Paredes (baptized in SJBC) and Mercedes Blanchart (from Roman Catholic Church). In June we repeated the experience with four women, and now we are waiting for a confirmation of one of them and the reception as a member of the other. They are: Natalia Leishman (from Los Antiguos city), and Viviana Nahuelquir.

Also we start to offer biblical studies the second and the fourth Saturdays each month. About 4/5 people attend the biblical studies.

And finally, in July we had a congregation work and lunch, in that we work about the concept of "Integrated human development" and how to build inclusive communities. In October we

plan to have one more,, in that we are going to study the Luther's suggestions about how to manage the congregational finances.

**We have an intern!** Since September 2<sup>nd</sup> and for one year, Kari Reiten, from Seattle, USA, start a time to learn and share "in Latin American context". Kari's internship is a part of an ELCA's program of education in context, called "Horizon". Then, she and her church expect an immersion in our environment, troubles, hopes and challenges... and also an acceptable improvement in Kari's Spanish skills. We hope that time be useful for the future Kari's ministry.

... In SJBC people can't believe. After twelve years without a pastor... now... pastor *and* intern!!! ... Actually, they never had an intern before Kari. (You can be in contact with Kari... and you can enjoy information about SJBC and Patagonia...in good and real English!!!

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*Thanks, Kari, for the pictures in this newsletter*

*(You can see pictures, commentaries, experiences and more information about SJBC and Kari's internship in: [www.patagonianwinds.blogspot.com](http://www.patagonianwinds.blogspot.com) )*

**May, 20<sup>th</sup> : Anahi Foundation** an NGO in the city invited us (with other faith families such roman catholic and Jewish) to explain our position concerning organ donation, in the context of a workshop for teachers



**Families Program:** since march and until November SJBC is involved in a joint support for people in vulnerable situations (joint with the local, provincial and national Government, Caritas – catholic social service- many non governmental associations and other churches). SJBC shares the little experience in children care achieved, and the space to function as a Neighborhood Attention Center (for questions, program schedule, etc.)

That means much work (perhaps we take more than we really can do): time for meetings, evaluations... but was an invaluable way to relation with people in the city (specially, neighbors), and also to

think/dream about opportunities for social service together (help for school children who are older than those of Caring Mothers, for example).

And, of course... we have a prayer for Christian Unity (and, in 2005, we was the hosts!), we are continuing with Caring Mother House (this year, we made some improvements in the kitchen and bathrooms).

**Thank for your prayers;** please, remember specially Mr. Gustavo Faas and Elida Faas (the former chairperson, 81 years old, several health problems... many back pain... by the way, he never complain; he is a strong man), all the families who are in Caring Mother Project (specially Claudia and her daughter Serena, homeless, living each month in a different space).

