



"Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."
Matthew 2: 1-2

We ponder this verse in our hearts as we stand amazed that over 2000 years later, this good news of the Christ-child is celebrated not only across the sea on the other side of the world, but also down under in the land of the southern cross!

2006 has been a transitional year for us. Alice's father, Ray, entered into his rest on March 31st. He left a big empty space in our lives which will not be filled. Although Alice feels blessed to have been in California for the last month of his life, those of you who have lost loved ones will attest to the length of time involved in the adjustment. The year has also had its "up" side. We have loved getting acquainted with the Argentine Covenant Church and working with folks all over this big country.

We have enjoyed hosting many visitors in our home this past year. This has ranged from friends of our girls, our son, our parents, and two separate visits from members of our Cartagena, Colombia Covenant Church. The daughter of our pastor in Cartagena is studying to be a medical doctor and spent a week with us as she attended a medical conference in Buenos Aires.

2007 looms before us and with it comes our celebration of 20 years as missionaries with the Evangelical Covenant Church coupled with our celebration of 30 years of marriage.

We give God all the glory and credit for both of these milestones! We wish you the most blessed Christmas. May we indeed worship our King as did the Magi of old, regardless of the hemisphere in which we find ourselves

Merry Christmas from the Westlinds.



Mark Natalia Nils Alice Nicole

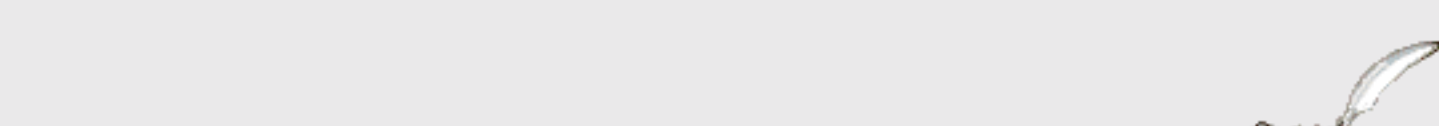
Be sure to visit us on our website at <http://www.westlindsontheweb.com.ar> for our latest ministry and family updates. You can even log onto our e-mail address directly if you would like to communicate!



Announcing our new website!



We are happy to announce that our website is finally up and running! Just log on www.westlindsontheweb.com.ar and learn about our new **Ministry in Argentina** or our latest **Praise and Prayer Requests** plus lots more!



"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken or my covenant of peace be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you." (Isa 54:10)



Mark, Alice Nils, Natalia and Nicole have claimed this wonderful Bible verse for our family this year! If I could paraphrase this verse to fit our lives it would go something like this...

Though our world was shaken when we left Chicago and moved to Argentina, and our firstborn left the nest to inhabit a college dorm, God was there in our mixed emotions of excitement and sadness, gently guiding as His peace reigned in each one of us amidst our doubts, because the Lord longs to have compassion on us.

We are excited to see how God is showing and teaching each of us new things about Himself, whether at North Park University in Chicago or Buenos Aires! The Argentine people and their culture have been a great source of joy for the four of us.

As you can see below some of their culture has already rubbed off as we sip "Mate" from our "Materos".

We're having a very 'Mate' Christmas

Mate, or the heavenly herb as we call it, is a tea that is an integral part of Argentine life. It is sipped daily and sometimes various times a day.

The Hierba Mate (or tea leaves) and the gourd that one drinks from all hail from the same tree. The bombilla is the strainer straw. Argentine's who travel the world often leave a good space in the suitcase for this wonderful herb! Since the gourd is shared around the circle of friends, it becomes a very social event. To top off our cultural adjustments, we are now the proud owners of the Dogo Argentino hunting wild boar and puma in Argentina. They can reach between 120 and 165 lbs. His name is Gaucho and you can see more of him on our New Website!



Yes, we are happy to announce we're up and running, so log onto www.westlindsontheweb.com.ar to our **Ministry** or **Praise & Prayer Requests** or **Family** pages.

We would like to encourage all of you, our supporters throughout these many years, to use this site as it will contain all current information about us and hopefully replace our newsletters.

We are aware that some of you will still prefer receiving our newsletters through the mail and that is ok! Just fill in the portion below as indicated and we'll make sure you are kept in the loop.

Finally, as always we are so thankful to God for friends like you. And we are thankful to God that He can transcend our relationships, surroundings and circumstances. So whether we are in Colombia, Chicago, California or Argentina we are remembering and praying for you.

Celebrate with us because this is the season when Christians throughout the entire world celebrate the **Savior** of the entire world, **Jesus Christ. We Celebrate His Birth!**

The Westlind Family

