

# Anglican Paraguay Prayer Calendar

## March & April 2014

### Week Sat 8 – Fri 14 March: Important in the sight of God

*(David Gives Thanks to the LORD) David went into the tent he had set up for the sacred chest. He sat there and prayed: LORD God, my family and I don't deserve what you have already done for us, and yet you have promised to do even more for my descendants. You are treating me as if I am a very important person. 1 Chronicles 17:16, 17*  
How wonderful that the Lord treats his people as very important, counting each one of us as of great worth.

- Lord God we praise you for the lives of pastor Niño Pepe and his wife Feliciano, giving thanks with them for their new house which they love and the abundance of fish in Riacho Gonzalez.
- We pray for Miriam Arce from Maklawaya and little Nilda following the sudden death on 7<sup>th</sup> March of husband and father, Juan who was a well known member of St Peters church. We also pray for Pastor Juan and the whole community as they mourn and adjust to this loss.



#### Person of the week: **Tadeo Correa**

*'I have been married for 11 years and I have 2 daughters, 10 and 5 years old. I have been working in FEISA for 10 years as a doorman and receptionist; my obligations include receiving calls as well as being part of security. I have also worked at Saint Andrews School for 20 years as a secretary for the Admin Department. On some occasions I help as a driver for the Toy Library.'*

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March Tadeo sustained a broken leg when he was knocked off his motorbike by a hit and run driver. Please pray for him this week:

- giving thanks that he survived this accident
  - that that Lord will use this experience powerfully in his life
  - good healing of his broken leg
  - for his wife Ruth and their two little girls
- We continue to pray for pastor's son Neri Sosa that his broken leg which was operated on earlier this year will heal completely and arrangements for getting him back to Asuncion for an X - Ray to ensure all is going well. We also pray for Deborah who is a member of St Andrews Chapel that she will be given strength and grace as she regains mobility of her leg which was broken in a cycling accident last year.
  - We rejoice with Charlie and Raquel Mendez as they share the news that they are expecting a baby in October. We thank the Lord for the gift of the life of this baby remember the words of the Psalmist: *You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvellous! Of this I have no doubt.* Psalm 139:13, 14
  - We pray for encouragement and protection for Bible translator Asuncion Rojas, carrying on with checking the OT draft and looking after the Rio Verde centre in Tim's Curtis' absence.

*I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1:4*

### Week Sat 15 – Fri 21 Mar: Kingdom Presence

*One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God come?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you." Luke 17:20, 21*

Claire Holmes shares: 'We pray with thanksgiving for those who plan to be baptised in Concepcion on the 16th March and for others who are considering this important step.

Please pray for the peace of our cities and communities in Paraguay, remembering that in the Scriptures God's people were exhorted to pray for the peace of the city in which they lived. Pray for all believers in Paraguay to heed this godly instruction, and for more and more of those who live in Paraguay to work for the welfare of their communities.

People of the week: **Pastor Lucho and Estela Robles**, praying:

- give thanks for the studies that Lucho has been doing and pray that much fruit will result
- wisdom in difficult church and pastoral situations
- Estela in her job as nurse in the Baptist hospital

We pray for 15 year Cintia from the Chaco who has had lung surgery. She is still in intensive care in a city hospital and is doing o.k. Elodia, her mother is glad be sleeping next to 2 Christian ladies and having good times of sharing.

We pray for nurse Beryl Baker's truck was stolen as it was parked on the road outside her house full of provisions that she about to take the Chaco, we pray for wisdom, peace and God's direction for Beryl.

FEISA: as the training college starts the new academic year we pray:

- for Adriana who is the first former FEISA to be employed on staff. When FEISA started there were very few teachers with degrees doing Early Years teaching who would have been able to teach at universtiy level. It was said; 'We should prepare our own university teachers.' Now this dream has become reality!
- Noemi who is the teaching practice coordinator asks us to pray for the teaching practices of the 30 third year students, praying that the students will learn and continue to develop their teaching skills, and the academic staff responsible of supervising these practices
- for the first year intake that the Lord will send those who he is calling to this vocation, the leadership of FEISA are praying for 35 new students this year
- a good take up of the new shorter training / degree and postgraduate courses that are being offered this year

*Work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile.  
Pray to the LORD for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare." Jeremiah 29:7*

## **Week Sat 22 – Fri 28 Mar: Kingdom ownership**

*Then Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. Luke 18:16,17*

This week we ask the Lord to forge in us Kingdom attitudes that we observe in small children such as trust, simplicity, sincerity, audacity and honesty, so that our thoughts and actions will usher in the Kingdom in our communities and situations. Praise the Lord for all the very keen children at the Rio Verde church, and the birth of Elsa's baby!

Person of the week: **Teresa Maidana** – Teresa is married to Pastor Agustin and is involved in activities the Cathedral which bless children. Standing alongside her in prayer, let us pray and give thanks for:

- the Sunday school, thanking the Lord for a new helper this year and asking for more helpers to come forward
- the Saturday morning Kids Club, that each child who attends will be protected spiritually and physically
- the new 10 pm Tuesday night Bible study, praying for more attenders and that the young people will take on more responsibility
- the sewing group the ladies and also children that attend
- Teresa's children and grandchildren and the good things the Lord is doing in their lives

St John's group of churches:

- we give thanks for the 4 members who took part in training for children's puppet shows, and for the 100 children who attended the special event for children in these communities which included a puppet show
- we pray for the group of leaders who are studying the course 'Towards Spiritual Maturity' with pastor Lucho
- we pray for Salomon who has pastoral oversight of Remansito and ask that he and his wife Magdalena will be given discernment.
- we pray for Eligio, Raphael and Victor who preach in the churches and for Carlos who has started to lead services. May their ministries be used by God to bring much fruit to the Kingdom

We pray for the children and teenagers who attend St Andrews School and the Annexe school, that the children will carry the fire of the Holy Spirit to their homes and a desire to read the Bible, bringing new spiritual life, faith and hope in Jesus to their families. We pray for all children who have decided to follow Jesus and pray that they will protected spiritually from unhelpful friendships and the work of darkness which might seek to draw them away from Jesus. We thank you for the lady who recently shared that the example of her daughters reading the Bible at home has birthed in her a desire to learn more about the Bible and how the Lord wants her to live her life for Him.

Please pray for the Diocesan Executive Committee meeting this Thursday, especially praying for Bishops Peter and Andres that they would be lead by the Lord in their deliberations and decisions.

We pray for St Andrews School head teacher Gwen Carlisle that she will be given strength and healing from migraines. We pray for her in her many duties, that the Lord will bless her leadership and give her wisdom as she deals with staff and that she would enjoy the time she is spending as she also does some teaching in the preschool.

Esperanza foster home, we pray for:

- give thanks that M who left the home in December is settling well with his adoptive parents
- house mother - Aunty Ynocencia
- a suitable helper for the home
- increase in supporters from within Paraguay
- the lord's guidance and help for Alejandra who was temporarily helping in the home over the summer vacation
- for twins F & F, siblings MP & J. The twin's language is developing and MP is starting to talk more
- a good arrangement with the landlords regarding the repair of the roof

### **Week Sat 29 Mar – Fri 4 Apr: Kingdom Kindness**

*For the Kingdom of Heaven is like the landowner who went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the normal daily wage and sent them out to work. "He answered one of them, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair! Didn't you agree to work all day for the usual wage? ... Take your money and go. I wanted to pay this last worker the same as you. Is it against the law for me to do what I want with my money? Should you be jealous because I am kind to others?' 'So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last.'*  
Matthew 20:1, 2, 14-16

People of the week: **Mario Recalde and Jorge Recalde**, we lift up prayers to the throne of grace and to Jesus our healer, for Jorge a 19 year old from Leona La Patria with very advanced TB and Pastor Mario Recalde also with T.B. and not looking at all well. We pray that both would be touched by Jesus' kind healing hands and that their needs for medicines would be met.

Please pray for Christians in Paraguay that our lives will be lived out, full of acts of kindness which like beacons, shine forth as a witness to the Kingdom in our midst. How many acts of kindness you can do this week?

Tim Curtis arrives back in Paraguay this week after a time of ministry and rest back in the UK. Please pray that he will travel safely and quickly settle back into life in Rio Verde.

St Paul's Church in Concepcion asks us to pray,

- in May Bishop Andres and Estela retire, they are preparing for this and helping prepare the church
- for unity from the Lord during this time of change and discernment, wisdom and courage for the way ahead
- that each church member will recognise and use their gifts

Father God, we pray for the **clergy of the Anglican Church in Paraguay** that they would know You better and know your immense kindness and love for each one of them. We pray for Niño Pepe & Feliciano Agüero, Peter & Sally Bartlett, Donald & Caroline Brooks, Mario & Rosa Caballero, Agripino & Nilda Cerro, Luis & Regina Echeverría, Robert & Cristina Fernández, Ronald & Nicky Irene, Agustín & Teresa Maidana, Lucho & Estela Robles, Mario & Agustina Recalde, Andrés & Estela Rodríguez, Cefe & Ana Romero, Lucio & Priscilla Romero and Romualdo & Yrna Rojas and Juan & Alicia Sosa. May each one seek to be filled daily with your life giving Spirit and may they find time in busy schedules for acts of kindness which bring your kingdom to others. Amen.

Charlie Mendez asks us to pray 'for the plans that David Greco, Esteban Romero and I have to start training sessions every two months with young people in the Greater Asuncion churches. Please pray that the Lord will guide us in the preparation and carrying out of these activities and that His name will be glorified.

*Not one life spent in the cause of world evangelism is spent in vain. Not one prayer or one dollar or one sermon or one letter of encouragement mailed or one little light shining in some dark place – nothing in the cause of advancing the Kingdom is in vain.*  
John Piper solidjoys.desiringgood.org 14.3.14

### **Week Sat 5 – Fri 11 Apr: Kingdom Calling**

*Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come ... "For many are called, but few are chosen."* Matthew 22: 2, 3

Person of the week: **Ruth Maidana**. I've been working in FEISA since 2001, for the first 8 years in administration but since 2009 as the Academic Secretary. I am married to David who works in Asuncion's international airport and we have 2 sons, Aaron aged 14 who is in 9th grade and Tobias aged 7 who is in 2nd grade. I'm very grateful to God for all the way He is blessing FEISA and also showing His love towards my family. I do send you very warm greetings, trusting that God will continue to protect and bless each one of you.

The Lord has given Ruth the gift of listening to the students and they really trust her. FEISA have set up a prayer corner, and she is going to spend an hour each day praying for the students and for the institution, and giving spiritual orientation to any of the students who desire it. Pray for Ruth to achieve a good work / life balance - she is doing a degree in Psychology.



Together **Miriam Greco & Sally Bartlett** are running mothers' Bible studies in St Andrews and they ask us to pray that the groups which have recently restarted will settle into a pattern of regular attendance on the part of the mothers who like to attend and who want to follow Jesus. They ask us to pray for special blessings for Claudia, Patty, Violeta, Gloria, Steffi, Rosa, Rosalba, Vanessa, Carolina, Karen, Letty and Angelina. May they respond to Jesus' call to follow him and be blessed in their families, communities, jobs and responsibilities.

We pray for Sharon McCririe as she seeks the Lord's guidance about where she should live in the future. She is feeling much better physically. Thank you for your prayers.

David Orritt asks us to give thanks and pray to the Lord:

- that once again He has called people with a range of skills and experience to be members of the Mission Paraguay groups who will be based in Asunción and the Chaco in July and August and that despite a few initial difficulties all flights are now booked
- grateful for the generosity of churches and individual supporters who have given to support the planned work
- grateful for those members of the Anglican Church in Paraguay who give generously of their time to make the necessary arrangements for groups visiting
- for Chris Hawksbee, for his ongoing work and safety as during much of the year he plans, organises and oversees Mission Paraguay funded projects in different parts of the Chaco
- pray for guidance as preparations for the visit are made during the next few months in the UK, Ireland and the different communities which we will be visiting in Paraguay

The Paraguayan Chaco is a place of great beauty, but its extreme climate makes it a hard place to live in. We praise the Lord for abundant rain in the Chaco and coolness during the last month. Praise the Lord's for protection for those who travel on roads which are difficult to maintain. Please pray for the Holy Spirit's convicting effect on the consciences of all who are deforesting the Chaco and destroying God's creation. We ask for special prayers for President Hugo Cartes and his cabinet – may they be increasingly conscious of the need to value and protect this important ecosystem for the well being of Paraguay, the continent and indeed the world.

*Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*

Psalm 1:1-3

## **Week Sat 12 – Fri 18: Holy Week Practical Living**

*And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.* John 13:14-17

Jesus' last act was an act of love. Just as Jesus washed his disciples feet, he calls us 'wash the feet' of others counting no task too small or insignificant to be done with great love. As you go about your daily tasks this week pray for Anglicans in Paraguay that we would become known for lives lived with great love for others, and ask the Lord to help you do your tasks with great love too. God will bless you for doing this.

We pray for the many people in Concepcion and in the church who are looking for work, that God will provide good jobs that pay just wages and that meanwhile He will sustain them.

Person of the week: **Pastor Juan Sosa**, is married to Alicia and they have 7 children. He is the pastor of St Peters church in Maklawaya and is help by Deacon Romualdo. This last year has been very challenging, their oldest son died tragically and there are many social problems in the community such as drunkenness and lack of opportunities for young people. Please pray that Juan will be made strong spiritually by the Lord and that the Holy Spirit will help him to make the most of the many opportunities that there are for pastoral work in his community. Pray that Juan will be encouraged this year and that significant leaders will emerge in the community who desire to work alongside Juan in a positive manner.

Mirador Source of Life Church:

- pray that the Lord will lead regarding the church's desire to open a children's feeding programme
- give thanks for the commitment of two young men Sadrak and Gustavo who are sharing Bible readings with members of the Mirador community
- give thanks for a committed group of praying women
- pray for the Saturday youth meetings with 11 young people attending

Pastor Ronnie wants us to pray:

- that he will be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to promote spiritual growth
- that Christ the Saviour Church will become known for its welcoming and loving atmosphere and that people would come to find it as their spiritual home
- that it would be possible to set up a meeting in St Andrews School specifically for fathers

Dealing with sects: St Matthews Rio Verde has the challenge of a Jehovah's witness family who have moved into the community, the teacher at school in Yatnata is also a Jehovah's witness. The Chaco Anglican communities receive sporadic visits from sects and also extreme Pentecostal groups who all believe that they are the only way to God and should rebaptise into their churches those who are already followers of Jesus. This often has an unsettling influence on the local believers. Let us pray for church leaders Juan, Romualdo, Lucio, Mario C, Robert, Agripino, Niño Pepe, Mario R, Andres, Victor, Agustin, Luis and Chris that they would provide Biblical teaching which enables the congregations to know how to deal with these visits and the false teachings that they promote.

When you prayed beneath the trees, it was for me, O Lord; when you cried upon your knees, how could it be, O Lord?  
When in blood and sweat and tears you dismissed your final fears, when you faced the soldiers' spears, you stood for me, O Lord.

When their triumph looked complete, it was for me, O Lord, when it seemed like your defeat, they could not see, O Lord!  
When you faced the mob alone, you were silent as a stone, and a tree became your throne; you came for me, O Lord.

Christopher Idle

## **Week Sat 19 – Fri 25 Apr: He is Risen just as He said**

*Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."* Mathew 28:5-7

The shock of the opening of the empty tomb meant that the women had to be instructed to remember the good news and instructions that the angel was giving to them. This week we pray that we may 'see' the Risen Lord Jesus. Help us, Holy Spirit to slow down and listen to your instructions this week.

We pray for Paraguayans who are spiritually hungry that they will be called by the Father to an encounter with the Risen Lord.

Person of the week: **Claire Holmes**, is from Northern Ireland and her home is currently in Concepcion where she works in St Paul's Church. Claire is passionate to see children and young people know and follow the Risen Jesus. She is helping to develop and disciple new leaders. We thank the Lord for Claire's life and ministry and pray that the Holy Spirit will equip her and guide her in the challenges she faces.

Pastor Agustin and Victor Gonzalez are visiting Chaco families in their homes and have set up several Bible groups. Several new groups have started recently and an initiative to encourage memorization of scripture is going well. Those who memorise scripture are given their own copy of the scriptures. Please pray for the new church council in Yatnata, which is in fact two councils, one for general church work and the other for ladies. The ladies council is very active, with the ladies running weekly prayer meetings and ladies meetings.

We pray for Bishop Peter teaching in the Cathedral on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of a disciple.

We pray for families in the Chaco where fathers work away from home that this Easter would be a time to renew faith and strengthen family life as men return to the communities for the holiday weekend. We pray that many would make meeting together as God's family a priority.

We thank the Lord for teachers and pray that they will be filled with joy this Easter weekend. May they be blessed during this break from classes, we pray for all Christian teachers in Paraguay that you will enable to keep their eyes fixed on the Risen Lord and their ears open to the gentle voice of the Holy Spirit as they move in the vocation that they have been called to. We pray especially for: Alison H, Hannah, Sam, Jacqui & Deborah and also the Anglican members of St Andrews staff: Gwen Carlisle, Mags Southern, Caroline B, Esteban R, Nicky I, Raquel M, Neill B, Noemi R, Sarah M, Rita C, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B, and chaplain Ronald I. We also pray for the Head teacher Catalino and the Annexe school staff and pray for all ancillary and administrative staff.

When you stumbled up the road, you walked for me, O Lord, when you took your deadly load, that heavy tree, O Lord;  
When they lifted you on high, and they nailed you up to die, and when darkness filled the sky, it was for me, O Lord.

When you spoke with kingly power it was for me O Lord, in that dread and destined hour you made me free O Lord  
Earth and heaven heard you shout, death and hell were put to rout, for the grave could not hold out; you are for me O Lord.  
Christopher Idle

### **Week Sat 26 Mar– Wed 30 Apr: Disciples making disciples**

*The 11 disciples travelled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20*

Sally Bartlett's prayer for the leaders of the Anglican Church in Paraguay is that we would make disciples of nations. David DeVries précis challenges us. *Follow Jesus. Help others follow Jesus. Jesus said, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men' Matthew 4:19. First, follow Jesus fully. Then help others to follow Jesus. If you aren't helping anyone to follow Jesus – are you really following Jesus? Six-Word Lessons to Discover Missional Living*  
Please pray for us. Please pray for the Chapel community that we would grow as disciples and following him we would be enabled to help others follow Him.

Person of the week: **Elvio Cabañas**, is an indigenous Enxet leader from the Chaco. Several years ago he was ordained as a pastor in the Anglican church. Currently he is not working as a pastor as he works for the Ministry of Education with responsibility for the education of indigenous children. He has been living in Luque with Lorenza his wife and their three children. The two oldest, both girls start university this year, and their son is in high school here in the city. We pray for Elvio as he moves back to Yatnata and will be working out of an office in Yatnata. He faces many challenges in his work and also more general community issues. Pray that the Lord will work in and through his life.

We pray for Pastor Donald Brooks, the leadership team and the church in Luque that they would know the Lord's guiding and enabling in their discipleship of young people and children.

St Paul's church praises the Lord for the people He is bringing back to Him and to the church, some of them after many years and pray that each of us will continue to grow in Him, develop in our Christian life and know the power of the resurrected Christ.

Thank you for praying for the Anglican Church in Paraguay

+Peter & Sally Bartlett  
on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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