



Mission Paraguay 2014 Report

Through Mission Paraguay God calls Christians to build and strengthen cross cultural relationships by assisting the ministry of the local Anglican Church. They share the love of Jesus while using their skills and experience working for three weeks alongside fellow believers living in different regions of Paraguay. Through our many generous supporters God provides funds and other resources to source a wide range of projects.



This year two groups of Mission Paraguay volunteers visited Paraguay.

In July a group of twelve people from churches in England, Ireland and the Czech Republic were based at San Juan Church at Roque Alonso, Asunción. A typical day began with a rise out of bed at day break, a DIY breakfast followed by the sharing of a Bible passage and prayers. Roque Alonso is an excellent base for daily visits to communities at Mirador, Remansito, Zeballos Cue, Luque and Ipvu. We were able to work alongside local church members to distribute second-hand spectacles sent from the UK; undertake repainting work in church premises; assist with the mobile toy library operated by FEISA (the Anglican teacher training college) and work with children and young people. This was the seventh year that sewing workshops were organised specifically to develop new skills to assist women to provide for their families.



We are so grateful to Silvia, a Paraguayan member of St Andrew's English speaking church, who has assisted us for a number of years with transport and translation. Our evening meals prepared by Angela, a member of San Juan Church, were followed by a time of sharing experiences and feelings about the day concluding in a devotional time of worship and prayer.

Five days were spent undertaking a similar programme of activities in the Concepción area while working alongside missionary Claire Holmes from Northern Ireland and members of the local churches. The seven hour bus journey north east from Asunción to Concepción passes through the sparsely inhabited, flat wilderness of the Chaco and one day of the visit was spent with an Indian community who live in the Chaco approximately twenty miles from Concepción.



The plan for August was that Andrew, Philip, Raymond and William from Annaghmore Parish in Northern Ireland would work with missionary Chris Hawksbee and local Indian builders to upgrade a wooden church in the isolated village Colonia 24 in the Chaco but this was not possible owing to torrential rain during spring causing serious flooding. In July the earth access road was still impassable but a quick change of plan enabled the team to build three simple brick homes and

toilets for families living in shelters of timber, polythene sheets and old corrugated iron at Rio Verde an area unaffected by flooding. Other new homes were started and have been since been completed by local labour. The team were based at the Anglican Centre at Rio Verde where they met Tom Curtis and his team who are translating the Bible into the local Enxet language. They travelled with Chris to a number of different Indian communities to visit some of the self-sufficiency projects which Chris is developing with the local community leaders. They were greatly touched by the welcome received from so many people who had very little but put their faith in God to provide for their daily needs.



Most importantly all Mission Paraguay visits enable Christians from different cultures to develop friendships, work, pray, worship and relax together; provide mutual support and assistance and to learn from each other while serving the Lord. A short term mission trip is a faith building exercise and in 2014 this was certainly the case.



Grateful thanks are expressed to Bishop Peter Bartlett and members of the Anglican Church in Paraguay for their hospitality and assistance in enabling Mission Paraguay 2014 to take place.

Mission Paraguay works through the South American Mission Society UK and Ireland to support the Anglican Church in Paraguay, share the love of Jesus and change lives by providing funds and a volunteer work force for:

- practical projects, usually buildings;
- activities with children and young people;
- community based work to relieve hardship and encourage self sufficiency.



Working together, changing lives, growing in faith.

For further details or information about joining a Mission Paraguay group please contact:
David Orritt, Coordinator. Tel: 01704 892566, email: davidinparaguay@hotmail.com
Or SAMS UK and Ireland. Tel: 028 3831 0144, email: info@samsukireland.com

Projects funded by Mission Paraguay during 2014

Through the generosity of our supporters the following projects have been funded this year. Some projects are ongoing with funding being given on an annual basis while owing to their nature others are completed over a two year duration.

In Asuncion

- supplying materials for the decoration of the recently completed additional room to be used for children and youth ministry at the church at Remansito;
- funding repairs to a diocesan vehicle;
- funding roof repairs to the Pastor's house at Zeballos Cue;
- supplying materials to enable members of the Redeemer Church at Zeballos Cue to install new drains at a local home being flooded with effluent from nearby houses;
- funding materials for work with children in a number of church communities in the Asunción area;
- supplying toys and clothes for children from the Chacarita shanty area attending the bi-weekly meal and events at the diocesan multi-use building;
- funding visits and supplying toys for the mobile toy library operated by FEISA Teacher Training College.



Lunch time for the painters



Children in the toy library

In Concepción

- funding electrical and ventilation work and decoration at the new church building at Ramonita;



The new church built 2013/14



- providing funds for work with children and young people.

In the Chaco

- the construction of new brick walls, concrete floor etc to upgrade a wooden church at Colonia 24 a village 80km from the nearest tarmac road;



The church at Colonia 24 before and after refurbishment



- building 6 long drop toilets for families with inadequate facilities;
- construction of 6 brick homes with sheet metal roofs and concrete floors to replace overcrowded homes built of palm logs, plastic sheets and other discarded materials;



Keys to new homes built next to their old homes being handed to families



- supplying materials for self-help home improvements;
- funding the use of a diocesan vehicle to enable visiting pastors and a lay worker from Asunción to visit families and communities in villages in the Chaco;
- assisting to fund the employment of local expertise to work alongside missionary Chris Hawksbee to promote self-sufficiency projects among the Indian communities.

General items

- supplying and distributing over a thousand pairs of spectacles to communities in Asunción, Concepción and the Chaco;
- providing additional sewing machines and consumable materials for the sewing workshops which have operated for the last seven years in locations in Asunción, Concepción and occasionally at Rio Verde in the Chaco to encourage self-sufficiency;
- supplying medical items for use by Nurse Beryl Baker working in the Chaco;
- supplying clothes, blankets, toys and other items for distribution to people in need. Some clothes are sold for a nominal sum to raise funds for work with children and to operate the Saturday comedor which provides a nutritious meal for children in a number of communities.



Children at the comedor at San Antonio



Thank you to everyone who supports our work through your prayers and generosity.