

Paraguay Prayer Pointers Mar, Apr, May 2019



Children from the Redeemer Primary School & Pastor Luis, praying in their first church service of this academic year, Friday 2 March 2019, The Redeemer Church Zeballos Cue



Ordinations in St Andrews Cathedral deacons Esteban, Rafael and Gustavo November 25th 1918

Thankful for answered prayers!

Be filled with the Spirit...always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18,20

We give thanks to the Father for your faithful prayers. May each one of us be filled day by day with the Holy Spirit, and grow in thankfulness to the Father.

Let us give thanks for:

- Recent rain in the Chaco after a very dry couple of months and intense heat
- The ordinations of Esteban Romero, Rafael Ocampos and Gustavo Flores
- The visit to the Chaco of a technical team to assess the Rio Verde site planning improvements
- FEISA's continued financial progress towards self sustainability
- Little girls N, K y N from Esperanza are now with their adoptive families
- Over thirty years of faithful service to God's kingdom by Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern who have now retired
- The recent Rio Verde Bible week on prayer, lead by Pastor Agustin, Chris, Victor and Tim with 34 participants from 22 Chaco churches and 3 settlements

Urgent: Please pray for **Bishop John Ellison**, previous Bishop of Paraguay who is seriously ill in hospital, that the Lord will give Bishop John and Judie strength, courage and peace in this trial.

Please pray for Teresa Maidana and Pastor Agustin for safe travels in the Chaco and for Teresa as she leads another sewing workshop

Joyful service

Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you. Psalm 86:2-4

Let us pray for **Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern**, as they look to find a place to call home back in the north west of England, find a church and make new friends. May the Lord open the doors in the places he has prepared for them. We pray for much continued fruit from the seeds they have sown in the hearts of many children, young people and families.

We pray for the **clergy & the laity of the Anglican Church in Paraguay** that each one would grow in maturity as a servant of Christ and be given His joy in their serving.

FEISA Director Lourdes Calderini invites us to:

- give thanks to God for staff
- give thanks to God for the students that He is sending to the faculty
- pray that the Lord will be sending those students that have a heart to train and serve the young children of Paraguay
- pray for the third year students on their teaching practices
- pray for more space for FEISA

Bev Richardson asks us to praise the Lord and pray:

- God is so faithful. For my recent trip to UK and Ireland give thanks for smooth travels had, good health and great fellowship at both PiM conference and SAMS Ireland FNL and also a really blessed time had with my children and family in UK and Cyprus.
- As I step into a new role as Chaplain for primary school/female staff and students at CSA for continued peace, wisdom, discernment and protection as I'm led by the Holy Spirit and for the whole school as we adjust and move into a new season of leadership change.
- Pray for ongoing good health, to be fully restored after recent virus

Discipleship in the Chaco: please pray for Pastor Agustin, lay pastor Victor Gonzalez, mission partners Tim Curtis, Chris Hawksbee, as they work together discipling, teaching and attending to pastoral needs in the Chaco churches that their joy would be increased and that the leaders they work alongside would also continue to trust you and be given joy in difficult circumstances. Pray that the right resources will be released to enable the church to be strengthened for mission. Pray also for the work with young people in the Chaco churches to be developed, bringing hope to the next generation.

Praying in times of trial and distress

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:5-7

Father God, we thank you for forgiving our sins and errors, we thank you that from you we receive abounding loving-kindness, and that when we cry out to you for help you listen and answer our prayers.

Today we ask you to help all those whom we know who are in need of your help and healing touch, naming them before your throne of grace. We especially ask for our brothers and sisters in the Chaco who have limited access to doctors and hospital care, remembering Pastor Nino Pepe, Ruth and Felicia Caneta. May they know your comfort and encouragement.

'The Indigenous Shelter' is a safe place for many as they come to Concepción for several days or longer, for amongst other things to receive healthcare or to get their pension or family allowance. We pray for Saul and Norma as they lead this ministry and also for Gods guidance in how to develop it and carry it forward.

We pray for:

- all who have lost loved ones, that they may know God's comfort
- for those struggling with physical challenges and ill health
- for Ronnie and Nicky Irene, as Nicky continues to recover from being knocked over by a motor cyclist in November, and we thank the Lord for his faithful and loving provision, meeting all the family's needs at this difficult time, may the Lord give hope, courage, healing and strength
- for Estela Robles
- healing for Jose Acosta, a member of the church in Luque. Jose has been in hospital and has breathing difficulties and requires constant oxygen. We pray that the Lord will meet Jose's needs.
- good healing for the fracture in Sally Bartlett's hand

Beryl Baker lives on a ranch in the Chaco owned by Texan Rhett Butler. She asks us to pray for Rhett who is in hospital in Texas after falling in his bathroom, and has had fluid on his brain. His wife Mari is recovering from spinal surgery. In Rhett's absence rustlers have been invading the ranch, slaughtering cattle. Please pray for Rhett and Mari to trust in the Lord for their situations, and pray that the Lord's will be done. And we pray for God's protection for Beryl who's house is on the ranch site.

Keeping the Faith

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:23,24



Bible training encounter in Rio Verde, 28 Feb 2018

Chris Hawksbee shares:

- give thanks for the guys who came from Sombrero Piri and their participation. God is moving there. Pray that they are given boldness in their Christian witness in the community
 - we spent time looking at the internal regulations of the Paraguayan Anglican Church. There was a lot of interest, it serves to strengthen the identity of the local churches. Other religious groups in some of the villages are disorganized and people are seeing through their falseness and coming back to the Anglicans. Pray that our leaders help them back into the fold.
- We looked at prayer in different parts of the Bible and seeing what was said. The Scripture help us to learn how to pray. Pray that these Scriptures will encourage the brethren.
 - There were several new participants, pray that they will be encouraged to pray.

Diocesan Executive: pray for Bishop Peter, Deacon Celino, Priscila Guillen, Marlene Ferreira, Dina Fretes and the members of the committee who are working hard with the search for the new bishop. We pray for unity across the Diocese as this process proceeds.

Bishop Peter gives thanks for the staff who work in the **Diocesan Offices:** Miriam G the administrator, David the admin assistant, Miguel admin helper, Miriam M the cleaning lady and Lorenzo the gardener. Please pray for each one for God's blessings to abound in their lives and family.



Youth Camp follow up meeting at St Johns Church with Pastor Lucho.

We pray for each person involved in the **summer youth camp**, giving thanks for:

- very positive results in the spiritual lives of those who attended
- very good quality and challenging input
- all costs were covered

- the dedication and enthusiasm of the young people on returning to their congregations painting, gardening, cleaning up the church sites and surrounding streets (visitors to the churches have commented on how neat and tidy they look!)

praying:

- for each young person to develop a close intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus
- that the follow up meetings will help their spiritual and emotional growth.

We pray for the **Church in Luque**, giving thanks for their input into the diocesan youth activities, We especially pray for Deacon Esteban and his wife Iris as they are both studying at the moment, and for overseeing Pastor Cefe and his wife Ana, and the church council. May they and the church be given wisdom and strength in the Lord as they carry out the activities they have planned for this year. We pray for the groups meeting weekly to study The Purpose Driven Life, may much growth happen as a result of these small groups. We ask for God's protection for each member and person who attends. Amen.

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening

Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:8-10

Listening to God does not always come naturally to us, so let's ask the Lord to still our hearts, be humble like small children and to help us grow in listening to his voice so that we may serve him with obedience.

We remember with gratitude to the Lord the life of **Eileen Murphy**, former head teacher of St Andrews and the founder of FEISA early years teacher training faculty. Eileen went to be with the Lord in glory on the 17th January. We pray that the institutions that she served would continue to flourish and bring glory to God's name as children and young people receive a Christian education. We also pray for her Eileen's family and her friends especially Molly Cooper, that each one would know God's comfort and strength.

We pray for the Redeemer Primary School

- giving thanks for Ministry of Education approval of its papers. We ask for wisdom and grace day by day for Director Gloria Maldonado and the teachers Gladis, Patricia and Dora
- for each girl and boy that God would guide them and help them to grow not just in physical stature but in His wisdom
- may the staff and children be filled with peace and joy

Miriam Greco asks us to pray for the **search for a new bishop**:

- giving thanks to the Lord for the lives of Bishop Peter and Sally Bartlett
- that the Holy Spirit, in this new phase of their lives, will bring glory to Lord's name
- giving thanks to the Lord for His promises and that we trust in Him knowing that He is accompanying the church in the process of looking for the next bishop
- we pray for this process that the Lord will fill us with His grace now during the search and in the future as we then work alongside the new bishop who will be elected.

Let's pray for Esteban Romero, Gustavo Flores and Rafael Ocampos studying theology at the Evangelical University, and for Iris Romero who has just started her first year on the same course. May the Lord bring much fruit from these studies and may the students enjoy their studies.

Welcoming communities

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Col 4:5,6

We pray for the newly formed Bible Study group in Villa Guarani with **4 young couples** that God's word would teach, rebuke, correct and train these young adults and we ask that Pastor Ronnie would continue to grow in discernment and wisdom.

Pray for the **Redeemer Church** in Zeballos Cue as seek to preach the Gospel to the families of the Redeemer School pupils and 3rd the community around the church. We thank you Lord for all who have visited this community of faith and the church's desire to reach out to others.

Pastor Ronnie asks us to pray for **St Andrews Cathedral** congregation, giving thanks for the members and those who visit the church and also for the improvements in the fabric of the church and. We pray that the church would grow in maturity and in numbers.

Claire Holmes shares: we give thanks for the diocesan summer youth camp in Asuncion and for all the **young people from Concepción** who took part. The support and friendship from the Asuncion young people and leaders has been a huge encouragement for the Concepción youth and has helped them to grow in their faith. The young people are planning a special event for Easter. We pray that as that as the Gospel is preached hearts would respond. We pray that God will continue to raise up many leaders from amongst them as they commit their lives and gifts to Him.

St Andrews Chapel gives thanks for adults, new families and children now attending and for the team of helpers and servers as we now move into a time of transition and change also in the chapel without a pastor. Please pray for all who visit the Chapel to receive the love of Christ through the welcome given by His people, that those who do not yet know Him would be drawn to Him, and those who are disciples will be enabled to grow as faithful servants and disciple others. And pray too for the Thursday evening Bible study group.

Strength for God's servants

King David prays to the Lord: *Turn to me, and be gracious to me; oh grant Your strength to Your servant...*
Psalm 86:16

King David is described as a 'man after God's own heart', he was humble, reverent, obedient, respectful, trusting, loving, devoted, faithful to God, repentant and most willing to proclaim God's salvation and great deeds. Pray for those who lead to have **servant hearts** and to grow in these characteristics.

Pray for the bishops and clergy, and laity of the Anglican church to be filled with the Holy Spirit, protected by God, to be more and more conformed to God's heartbeat and to be given strength from God as they serve the King and His Kingdom

- Bishops Peter & Andrés (retired), clergy: Agripino, Agustin, Andres, Carlos, Cefe, Celino, Esteban, Gilberto C, Gilberto M, Gumersindo, Gustavo, Juan, Ronald, Luis, Lucho, Mario C, Mario R, Nicasio, Niño Pepe, Rafael, Remigio, Robert, Romualdo, Ronald and Tito
- pastoral workers, service leaders, music leaders, children's workers, servers and helpers

Pastor Lucho gives thanks for:

- your prayers
- the commitment and hard work of deacons Rafael and Gustavo and the pastoral workers
- the work and commitment of those working with children and young people in St Johns
- pastoral visits to the families of the children who attend Sunday school

He asks us to pray for:

- his wife Estela's health to improve
- more Sunday school teachers in Remansito and Mirador, that the Lord would raise up

Pastor Ronnie asks for prayer in the challenges as he balances his home commitments and ministry commitments that the Lord would guide him.

Pastor Luis asks us to pray for:

- his new ministry in the Annex School teaching Bible classes
- growth in maturity and numbers in the Redeemer school
- the reopening of the Saturday children's lunch
- strengthening of the youth group

Leaving a legacy

King David prays to the Lord: *Turn to me... and save the son of Your handmaid.* Psalm 86:16

We note that David's mother served the Lord. Give thanks for **Christian parents & families** their families and pray that they would be given strength from the Lord, wisdom and grace as they guide the next generation. Let's pray for families you know as well as the families of the Anglican Church in Paraguay.

Esperanza Foster Home: Ana Maria, Mary and Sally give thanks for answered prayer, especially that N, N and K completed the school year well and that they are now with their adoptive families. Please pray for:

- three toddlers and the recently arrived baby who are currently in the home for safety, security, good futures and rapid progress in legal matters relating to each child
- J's language development and that he will settle well to nursery school
- E's family situation to clarify and for her continued well being
- lawyer Adriana, administrator Diana, aunties Vicky, Olga, Juana, Cris and Analia

We pray for **St Andrews School** as requested by new head teacher Carlos de La Sobera, for:

- provision, so that we may have more than needed to equip the school with what is needed to cover all the pedagogical & administrative resources, and that we may close the year with a surplus
- each family of students and staff alike, that the peace of the Lord may be in them and with them at all times. If there may be families or marriages going through trials and tribulations, may the mighty hand of God be with them at all times.
- all of the new changes needed to be implemented at school in terms of both teaching and administration. May God give us the wisdom to do everything according to His will and desire, and may the end result be a more excellent St Andrews School.
- for good results from the recent mandatory General Meeting with all parents and staff, where Carlos will laid out the vision for the school moving forward. May there be a renewed sense of commitment and professionalism from the community.
- all of our Professional Development sessions, which will take place on a monthly basis, from 13:00 - 15:30hs. so that staff may feel supported in their roles as teachers.
- Carlos himself as he continues to settle in and push forward changes
- Catalino Bogado head teacher of the St Andrews Annex School during this time

Sally Bartlett asks us to pray for the **small groups** that meet in the Diocese, that leaders would be equipped to nurture spiritual growth, and that they would be given discernment as to how to disciple and how to delegate and bring others into leadership.

The pastoral team in Asuncion asks us to pray giving thanks for our brothers **Rafael, Gustavo & Esteban** who were recently ordained as deacons as they carry on studying and acquiring skills for their ministries in the Kingdom of God. Pray that their lives will be touched by God's presence in a way that means that their faces reflect God's glory and that as the journey through life they will leave God's footprints in others lives.

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

To pray constantly only for ourselves is a mark of failure in prayer.

It is in intercession for others that our faith and love and perseverance will be stirred up and that the power of the Spirit will be found to equip us for bringing salvation to people.

Andrew Murray, The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer

Thank you for your gift of your time and your prayers as you pray today
for the Anglican Church in Paraguay.

+ **Peter & Sally Bartlett**

on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

Iglesia Anglicana Paraguaya, Casilla de Correos 1124, Asunción, Paraguay, South America

peterparaguay@gmail.com saritabartlett@hotmail.co.uk