

Christmas 2017

Dear friends.

I hope you are well. No doubt you are getting ready for Christmas. Here we have had a very busy fortnight, presenting 'Nativity Plays' with 8 different groups of children and young people, in church and in our annexes within Concepcion and in the country areas. The children love it and it is always such a lovely opportunity to spend more time with them, to teach them the good news of how Jesus came to save them and also to invite their families and neighbours. They were all very different and there have been many encouragements such as a lovely sense of team work, new children starting to come, people coming to ask for prayer, young people who used to come to the children's clubs coming to help out and people responding to the good news of the gospel. We are really thankful to God and to you for all your prayers. 'Over the last weeks we have been reminded again by this verse from Luke 2, that the good news of great joy needs to be shared. 'And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'

In Paraguay, people celebrate Christmas with a special dinner late on Christmas Eve night. As a church we plan to go to the hospital on Christmas Eve night to take a dinner to patients and those who are staying with them and also just to spend time with them, offer prayer etc.. A lot of the patients in the hospital are from the country areas and generally someone from their family comes to stay with them, to help look after them, buy the medicines they need and so on. It's never easy being in hospital and especially when they are far from their homes and families, and at special times of the year. Please pray for us as we share with them and for them that they will know God's love, peace and comfort.

I have shared different times about 'Simply the Story' a way of sharing Bible stories, and the training for this which has taken place in Concepcion. On 6th of January Lucia from the church here and me plan to go to Chile to join with Bryan and Ami Thompson, instructors from Northern Ireland, to deliver the workshop there. After Chile we will all return to Paraguay for a workshop in Asuncion which begins on 18th January. About 8 people from the church here in Concepcion will be helping with the training in Asuncion. Please pray for us as we prepare for this and that it will bring growth in each of our lives and also growth for the church in Paraguay and in Chile. Also for Bryan and Ami as they prepare to come out and especially for Ami's health.



Thank you so much for all your support and prayers.

I hope you have a special, God blessed Christmas.

Love Claire



WHEN *Hope* WAS
BORN



*Thank you for your prayerful support
throughout 2017*

With love and prayers from

Claire