

# Claire's Prayer Letter - July 2018

Dear friends,

I hope you're well and enjoying the heatwave! Here, our winter has brought some lovely cool days, but the higher percentage of them have been in the 30's!

Writing prayer letters and news updates is a great way of reflecting back over what has been happening, looking forward and really thinking about prayer priorities. As I was thinking about what to write the words of the following song were in my head:

*"Take my life, and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise, Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart; it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne."*

What an amazing song and prayer!



## THE YOUNG PEOPLE

As I often mention, it's great to see many who have been with us since 'Kid's Club,' come to church and in some cases start to serve in different ways. We have many young people who have so many gifts and talents. Please pray as the song says, that as they grow, their lives and also their talents and gifts will be consecrated to the Lord.

Over the last months many of the young people have been discouraged as they struggle with different issues such as things in their life that they don't want to give up, being able to manage their time, in many cases being the only christian in their family and also a pull towards what the world has to offer - their words, not mine! The youth music group also hasn't really been playing since the end of last year. The young people here are generally quite open and honest about their struggles and what is going on in their lives and over the past months many of them have been asking for support to help them to keep walking with God. We plan to start a course this week with the musicians, on leadership and the life of a leader and they also want to start practising together again. Please pray for them as they do this. A lot of the young people have also spoken of wanting to start staying over at the church on Saturday nights to hang out together as they used to, and in so doing avoid a lot of the temptations they often have at the weekends.

Thank you for your prayers for them and for us as we encourage them and disciple them. They are a great group. I am reminded again of the importance of prayer and of waiting for the Lord's answer in His time. He is faithful!



*Children and young people in Ramonita*



*Lorena, Lucia and Zuny*

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

We are thankful to God that He has sustained us as we have had over 4 years without a minister / pastor. Please pray for Ricardo who is serving as the person in charge alongside his wife Cristina, accompanied by Saul and Norma and the church council. We would also really appreciate your prayers for the provision of a Pastor for us.

## **STS Ecuador**

We continue to be involved as a church in 'Simply the Story.' In April Zuny, Lorena and Lucia went to Ecuador to deliver training and this time took on a lot more of the responsibility for the training. It was a challenging but brilliant time for them and they were really encouraged as we pray were those in Ecuador.

Currently as a team here we are having a lot of fun and being challenged, practising stories of 5 minutes which can be used in our daily conversations with people we know or who we get into conversation with. We pray that we won't just practise these together as a group, but that we will start to put it into practice in our daily life as we meet different people.

## **VISITS AND TEAMS**

Last month we were delighted to have a visit from Gillian from the SAMS Office and her husband Wilson. As Gillian had lived here for 5 months we had fun as she caught up with everyone again. Wilson is a great photographer and got some brilliant photos. I think he took more photos in a week than I have in the last 10 years so I will have some good photos when I next visit churches.

A team from Annaghmore are spending the last two weeks of July in Paraguay. The men are doing building work in the Chaco while the women spend half their time in Concepcion and half in the Chaco. Their time with us in Concepcion has just finished and it was brilliant to have them here. They were involved in work with the children and young people, sewing, craft and one of them who is a physiotherapist was also able to give advice to different people which meant a lot to them. They were such an encouragement and it always gives the church a real boost to have visitors from home.



*The team from Annaghmore*

## **YOU CAN'T GO TO CHURCH**

Over the past while it has again been drawn to my attention, children and young people who want to come to church, but whose parents don't always want to give them permission to for different reasons.. Several times over the past few weeks I have overheard different children and young people plead to be allowed to come. We pray for these young people and their families.

## **MARITO - THE NEW PRESIDENT ELECT:**

In August the new President, Marito will take up office. He is an ex student of the Anglican Christian College, "St Andrew's College", where all the students receive a christian education, and he has said publicly that he respects the Word of God. I'm sure he would appreciate your prayers.

Thank you again for all your faithful and consistent support and prayers. It is very, very much appreciated!

God bless you!

Love Claire