

PRAYER LETTER FROM CLAIRE

Dear Praying Friends

I hope you are well. The last few months, since my last letter have been busy with lots of good things happening. Thanks so much for all your prayers, support and involvement in what God is doing here.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

At the beginning of July we had our annual 'church assembly' where reports are given on what has been happening in the church over the last year and where some decisions are made for the future. Ricardo is going to continue as the pastoral co-ordinator for another year accompanied by his wife Cristina, with Saul and Norma supporting them in this role.

VISITORS AND TEAMS.

During the month of July we were really pleased to have visitors from Asuncion, young people who came to spend time with our young people which really encouraged them in their faith. We also had some visitors from Ireland and England, who joined in with the different church activities and groups, as well as painting the Indian shelter and again their visit was a great encouragement. I had the privilege of meeting up with a team from Mullavilly, Northern Ireland and Bishop Ken at the Iguassu Falls. It was so good to spend time with them



and also to be reminded of how in Mission we all work together as one team, each playing such an important part – the churches

and people at home who support and pray, the local church out here, and teams and volunteers who come. At the end of this month Melissa Newell and Rachel Buchanan are coming here to spend 5 months serving with the church. Please pray for them as they prepare for their Mission trip and as they settle in.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day is on the 16th August and is celebrated everywhere in Paraguay, in memory of many children who were killed when they went to war, after many of the men died. The church also celebrates it and our activities last over a week as we do a special event in 9 different areas where we work with children. We started on Thursday 10th August and as well as clowns, games, chocolate cake and a small present we are teaching the story of Naaman and how a young girl made a difference when she believed in God and his power to heal, and shared this faith with others. It is also going to be evangelistic and we pray that it will be an opportunity to reach out to new children who don't come to the children's clubs and that the numbers who come to the weekly meetings will grow.

It is good to have Hannah Cadden from Seagoe Parish Church with us for the first week of the activities. A lot of the secondary school age young people have also been helping, doing clowns, dramatising the Bible Story, organising games with the children amongst other things. I was so impressed by them when we did 'Children's Day' in the Chaco. It hasn't rained there in over two months



and many of the Indians have run out of drinking water. The rain decided to come yesterday when we were in the middle of an outdoor meeting for the children and their families. Without being asked to, the young people who were with us, held the parachutes over the children to shelter them from the rain,

while we finished the Bible Story, gave out the cake, present etc. They were happy to stand and get soaked to keep the children dry and did so without complaint. It's a small thing and yet it is that heart attitude we pray for, for them and for all of us, that we will willingly serve Jesus, day by day in small ways and in any way we can.

DIOCESAN YOUTH CAMP:

For the first time the diocesan youth camp was in Concepción this year. We were going to have it at 'San Juan' one of our annexes in the country, but sadly one of the main church leaders there, Totito, took ill and died. Please pray for his wife Tita, and also for the church there.



The Lord amazingly provided a really great place for the camp, not too far away from Concepción, a place I didn't even

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see 15 – 16 year olds leading the discussion for Bible Stories. Bryan Thompson hopes to visit us in January to lead another workshop. Please pray for us as we prepare for this, and for those who will take part. We have had two workshops in Concepcion, but it

will be the first time those from Asuncion will be trained in this.

To finish I want to share with you some testimonies that the young people gave during the service at the end of the camp. It was so encouraging to hear of how the Lord had touched their lives. I won't mention their names but God knows who they are and it would mean so much if you could pray for them.

“H” started to say how much he had enjoyed the camp and to thank everyone. After a few words he started to cry bitterly and say that he has been coming to church since he was 5 and wants to serve God, he wants to tell others about Him, to make a difference for Him, but that there is something holding him back. He said he wants to have a heart for the Lord, like that of Bishop Andres. He publicly asked us to pray for him and we had the privilege of being able to do so.

“B” asked for prayers for her family. She said that her two brothers and her are the only Christians in her family and that she loves them both even though they annoy her (which made me smile.) At camp she realised the urgency there is for the rest of her family who aren't Christians and asked for prayer that her brothers and her will be able to unite and be a really good testimony for the rest of her family.

“D” said that before camp his sister had said to him ‘you should be leading and serving here, but you aren't, because you won't commit.’ Those words really hit him hard, as did the theme of camp, the Bible Stories and talks - ‘wake up.’ He shared of how he is always encouraged and fired up for God after camps but is afraid, because he always slips back and ends up letting God and the church down. “D” asked for prayer that this time he will be able to be firm in his decision and commitment. Again we were able to pray for him.

Thank you so much for all your support and thanks be to God for his faithfulness.

God bless you all loads.

Love

Claire

know existed. The theme of the camp was ‘Wake Up.’ There were a lot of discouragements the week before the camp as lots of young people came to say that they wouldn't be able to attend after all. Lucia, another leader and myself talked and prayed about it, and encouraged each other to have faith (as small as a mustard seed, but able to move mountains as our God is a great God) and to focus not on what we were seeing and hearing, but on what we believed the Lord wanted to do. He did so much more than we could have hoped for.

It was brilliant to be able to work together with the youth leaders from Asuncion and both to have fun together and to draw closer to God. The young people from Concepcion led the morning devotionals telling Bible stories as we had learned to do in the ‘Simply the Story’ workshop. They were really encouraged by this and it was lovely to

