

News from Caroline Gilmour-White working at FEISA in Asunción, 1 May 2008

Hello everybody

I'm now up to speed electronically with a new email address and broadband which means I can Skype-phone my family and anyone else who'd like to talk to Paraguay.

I'm not quite so speedy time-wise composing letters. Borrowing has mushroomed with our 70 students and we are working long hours managing the night time degree course. I am very shortstaffed in the library, having lost marvellously efficient Tati to her dream place at university. Our new librarian, Isabel, great at library organization, takes lots of time off for one reason and another. I'm hoping you won't mind if, for a few months until we can get a new staff member trained to help carry the load, I send short emails and forward on FEISA's main newsletter which is suitable for noticeboards. This will follow in a few days. If you would like to read about our bursary students and their backgrounds, go to Fiona's blogpage at: <http://www.fionalouisecooper.blogspot.com>

The most immediate news is that Paraguay has a new President. Fernando Lugo, an ex Catholic Bishop, backed by the Liberals, won a historic victory over the Colorado Party whose power has been unchecked for 61 years. Although we started hopefully 5 years ago with a President who was more a man of the people than any before him, things here have got steadily worse. Political position in Paraguay is associated with dominant power, status and money. Lugo has none of that and no political experience but he campaigned long and hard and is astute. He has long experience of the difficulties of the rural poor and hopes to change things for them but he faces huge challenges tackling widespread poverty, corruption, land reform, unemployment, health and education.

My landlord calls the plants and general scene at the back of my house 'Jurassic Park'. The attached photo is a set of set of firsts: first trees in my concrete garden, first pawpaw fruit, first birds (mostly fruit-eating Tanagers) and first bird photo (they're not easy to snap at all!).

I'm thankful for:

- Some good holiday days to relieve the work pressure, including a trip to Argentina
- A telephone, mobile phone and broadband which all work - for the moment
- Bird life in Jurassic Park!
- The Yellow Fever outbreak ending with the arrival of cooler weather

Things to pray for:

- The nomination of an Anglican Bishop for Paraguay, the person of God's choice
- Feisa's finances. The dollar is low which is hitting our bank rate hard.
- The chance of running some self-sustaining activities in FEISA
- The successful appointment of someone to run the library database

With love and God bless, Caroline

Caroline Gilmour-White, FEISA, CC 1124, Asunción, Paraguay. If you wish to support my work through SAMS (South American Mission Society) please contact Philip Tadman (Financial Secretary), Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent TN2 3QU email: finsec@samsgb.org Tel: 01892 538647 www.samsgb.org Caroline's email address is cqwparaguay@gmail.com Postal prayer letters are sent by Jude Smith, 38 Wynds Point, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2EF
