



SAMS

UK & IRELAND

South American Mission Society

Dear Friends,

October 2012



Greetings from another cold day in Paraguay! The temperatures plummeted again yesterday and we were down from 30+°C to below 10°C. It seems like we had summer in winter and now winter in Spring! At least the sun is shining again today.

We are off school at the moment for our Spring break which is very welcome as the last few weeks have also been very busy. We should have had the whole week off but we gave one day back as part of the way to make up the extra week we had to take in July!

It turned out to be another sad month for us. In one week we went to three wakes. The first was an ex teacher from school. She had retired at the age of 82 . Another was an ex secretary from school who had been ill in June but we all thought she was better. In the end she died of septicaemia. She was only 55 yrs old .

The hardest one was for the dad who had cancer and died two weeks ago aged 45. He had 3 sons, one of 20, one 18 and one of 9. He seemed to take a turn for the worse and went into hospital where he didn't last long. Pastor Ronnie was able to visit him a couple of times before he died and he professed a faith in Jesus. The two oldest boys were with him when he died. We went to the funeral and Ronnie was also able to take the service at the graveside and give a message of hope.



This last week we celebrated Spring which is also Youth day here. The secondary pupils had a special service and then fun and games . They also had a day retreat on Tuesday as Bishop Greg Venables was here from Buenos Aires and he led the retreat. The weather was so hot and heavy it was decided not to go to the sports ground so they spent the day in the cathedral. Bishop Greg also led a full staff retreat for us on Friday and we were able to go out to the sports ground as the weather was much cooler. We had a lovely day out there and enjoyed Bishop Greg's talks.

Bp Greg was very much appreciated as he also went to Villa Guarani on Sunday evening to preach there. The church there is getting established and has a number of school families attending ... something that has been our dream for a long time!



Last week we had a huge storm which was later rated as a small tornado. It ripped through one area of the city, peeling off roofs and knocking things down. A number of people were killed by things falling on them and that area was without water for a day and had no electricity for about 3 days.

