



**SAMS**  
UK & IRELAND  
South American Mission Society



March  
2015

# News from Paraguay

Dear Friends,

Another month has whizzed by and it's amazing to realize we are already up to Easter. March has been another busy month. Instead of rain and humidity we had a couple of weeks of very dry weather but still hot. Now the rain is back but bringing cooler weather with it this time. This last week we were down to around 20°C and we all felt cold!!



March has been the month of camps. The theme of the camps was from Daniel with the slogan of "Be different". First of all the 5th and 6th grades from primary went to camp and Pastor Ronnie went with them. They had a great time. Next 7th and 8th grades went to camp at our sports ground taking tents with them. Mags went to that one. At the same time 9th grade went to Survival camp and climbed a hill where they cooked their food. Pastor Donald went with them and they had a great camp. Mags had an interesting time at camp when two boys crashed heads at 11pm! The nurse decided they'd be better going to hospital as one seemed very disorientated. So an ambulance was called but they had difficulty finding the sports ground. Mags walked out to find the ambulance and then accompanied them to the hospital. At 3 am one of the dads gave her a lift home and the first Gwen knew of it was when the doorbell rang at 3am. She wasn't for answering it. Then the phone rang etc... Mags went back to camp the next day and they had a great time too. The annexe also went to camp at our sports ground the following week and Pastor Donald went with them too. They also enjoyed their time away.



## Camps



Even though we were still in summer we had a few outbreaks of influenza. In some cases we had more than half the class off and so we closed the affected classes for 2 days and then had the rooms extra cleaned and disinfected. We also had a few cases of glandular fever in Gwen's pre school class. Most of the children were back in school before we finished for Easter. Most of the pupils are settling again and the older ones getting used to using Tablets in classes and doing homework the same way and sending it back in by a deadline.

## Settling down to work again

For us it's been a very busy few weeks as there seems so much to do. We continue to work with the lawyer and our rule book is still not ready...it will be a tome when it's finished! The new folks, especially the primary head and the administrator, are settling well. The annexe school has also started well. We continue to take a service in church at least once a month. We were thrilled to see Sally back from the Uk and take on organizing the rota and some of the services again. We are preparing the service for Easter Sunday



The building work has more or less finished for the time being. The next stage is a ramp on the outside of the school with access to all floors but we are waiting for the plans to go through the town hall. Gradually we have got most of the changes in place for security and are almost ready to have evacuation and lock-down practices. The canteen is a source of delight for the kids who are enjoying the chef and his food. We managed to persuade the chef to stay until the end of the year! One of the big charities was organizing a run for children with special needs. Samsung sponsored it and gave a prize for the organization with most entries. Some big companies paid for all their staff to take part. Our head boy caught the idea and managed to get over 100 entries and so winning the prize for school...a Samsung 48" Smart TV which is now up in the dining room!





On March 20th we celebrated our school's 52nd birthday with a special service. We said we'd do that as we know a lot of the history. Mags prepared a powerpoint presentation showing pictures of before and now which show quite a contrast. Then she'd also interviewed some of the younger ones to ask what they'd like to be when they grow up. That clip was very amusing. We reminded the pupils that school was founded to bring children to Jesus so that they could serve their country with Christian values. We also invited back two ex pupils who have set up a charity making prosthetic hands on a 3D printer for people who couldn't afford one otherwise. It was great to invite them back to share with the pupils and even the little ones were attentive and could all be seen checking their own hands! After the service the ex pupils, Fercho and Eric, went to speak in more detail to the older pupils.



# Special Services



The following week we had our Easter service and the bishop and his wife, Sally, took that for us. The bishop led and Sally gave the talk. Pastor Ronnie and the Spanish teacher had prepared the 6th form to do a scene from Jesus carrying his cross. It was very powerful. The younger ones had practised the songs beforehand and sang really well. Some of the songs had actions and the older ones joined them. There was a very good atmosphere in the service. As that finished the children went home for their Easter break. We have a whole week off which is more than most schools.



We are well and didn't succumb to any of the illnesses. The animals are all well too. Splash, the puppy continues to entertain us...and annoy us when he eats the furniture. We keep waiting for him to grow up and then wonder if that will ever happen!

Thankyou for your continued prayers and support,  
Happy Easter.  
God Bless and love from,  
Gwen and Mags xxx