



# MISSION PARAGUAY

## 2008 Report

*In association with  
SAMS GB & SAMS Ireland*



## Our Mission



Mission Paraguay works through the Anglican Church in Paraguay to provide funds and a volunteer work force to assist with practical projects, usually buildings, which the local church would find difficult, if not impossible to provide themselves. Through the Church we also fund activities with children and young people and a range of community based work to relieve need and hardship.

Each year groups of committed Christians of all ages travel to Paraguay to live and work in the community so gaining a unique opportunity to experience another culture; to see how the local church is working and growing; to share fellowship, laughing and sometimes crying together; to receive and show the love of God. People return home feeling that they have gained far more than they give.

Many find that the experience deepens their Christian faith and for some it gives a new direction for their life as they review their priorities.

## A BIG Thank You

During July and August 2008, 33 volunteers from Ireland and the UK from the following churches travelled to work in Paraguay:

Ahoghill Parish Church, Ahoghill, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland  
Christ Church, Warminster, Wiltshire  
Magheralin Parish Church, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland  
Richmond Methodist Church, Richmond, North Yorkshire  
St Anne's, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield, West Yorkshire  
St Barnabas Church, York  
St Canice's Church, Eglinton, Londonderry, Northern Ireland  
St Mawgan Parish Church, Cornwall  
St John the Baptist Church, Burscough, Lancashire  
St John's, Eden Park, Beckenham, Kent  
St Paul's Church, Withington, Manchester  
St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale, Lancashire  
St Patrick's, Bunbeg, Co Donegal, Ireland  
St Saviour, Church of Ireland, Craigavon, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland  
Wrenthorpe Mission (Elim), Wakefield, West Yorkshire



We are also indebted to other churches and organisations who gave donations of money, equipment, children's sports gear or other items to support the work:

Berrymans Lace Mawer, Manchester  
Birkenhead Priory Parish Wives Group  
Burscough Football Club  
Carrickfin Church, Donegal, Ireland  
Elliot's Electrical Contractors Ltd. Burscough  
Emmanuel Church, Southport  
Hugh Baird College, Bootle, Merseyside  
Moreton Methodist Church Women's Fellowship, Wirral  
Rainford High Technology College, Rainford, Merseyside  
St Saviour's Church, Oxtun, Birkenhead  
Southport Christian Bookshop  
Stanley's Greengrocers, Birkdale, Southport



We express our gratitude to Colin Cunliffe and David Kay of the Fire and Rescue Service and also to Graham Aston and Luxfords of Weybridge for allowing us to include cases of clothing, tools, sewing machines and medical items in containers being shipped to Paraguay.

As in past years, the work would not have been possible without the generosity of churches and individuals taking part and of our other supporters. This year a total of **£23,097** was donated to fund the programme of work.

Thank you to all who gave and to those volunteers who travelled to Paraguay during 2008. Every year we are overwhelmed by the sacrifices people make to pay for their own travel from home and living expenses whilst in Paraguay but especially for their commitment to the people of Paraguay and the work of the Anglican Church there. We also recognise however, that in each case there is a back-up team raising funds, collecting gifts to distribute, providing organisational and administrative assistance and most importantly giving prayerful support before, during and after the project period. On behalf of Auxiliary Bishop Andrés Rodríguez, local pastors in the Chaco, Concepción and Asunción and all members of the Anglican Church in Paraguay a big thank you to everyone.

Throughout the year there is ongoing liaison with members of the Anglican Church in Paraguay as arrangements are made for the visits in July and August. During the actual project period there is a heavy reliance upon the Church to provide translators, accommodation, vehicles and drivers to enable groups of volunteers to operate. This year throughout July and August Mission



Paraguay had the exclusive use of the Land Rover belonging to the Anglican Church. A vehicle such as this is a necessity when working in different remote areas of the Chaco and the local knowledge and practical skills of Victor our driver played a key role in the daily operation of the July and Chaco groups. Local pastors liaise on a day-to-day basis to enable arrangements to be made for accommodation and the provision of meals. During the period since the retirement of Diocesan Bishop John Ellison in November 2007 until the Bishop elect Peter Bartlett takes up his post during early 2009, the arrangements for the visits through Mission Paraguay have placed a particularly heavy strain on already stretched Diocesan personnel. The leaders of Mission Paraguay, on behalf of all those taking part, wish to express their sincere thanks to Auxiliary Bishop Andrés and Estela Rodríguez, Diocesan staff and members of the local churches for their assistance, hospitality, friendship and patience. Special gratitude is expressed to Caroline Gilmour-White and Penny & Murray Metcalf who during 2008 formed the support team in Paraguay working hard to coordinate all arrangements for the group visits. In December Murray and Penny and their family left Paraguay to return to England and Caroline is now the Paraguayan Coordinator for Mission Paraguay.

2008 saw a significant development in our work with the new sewing project initiative expanding after the main project period and other work started during the summer continuing to completion. Consequently this report covers the period until the end of December 2008.

## **Report on the main 2008 Projects**

### **Asunción**

A group of 11 volunteers from Northern Ireland and different parts of England were based at Luque on the outskirts of Asunción for 2½ half weeks in July. The various rooms adjacent to the church proved excellent accommodation with the luxury of showers which, once the electrical controls were mastered, usually dispensed hot water. Asunción has an excellent bus service and this, coupled with the use of the Land Rover, enabled Mission Paraguay to

undertake a variety of activities in different communities and to utilise the full range of skills within the group. Much of our work centred on San Lorenzo an area characterised by old concrete pylons carrying high voltage overhead power cables beneath which are a mixture of small overcrowded homes built of timber, plastic or corrugated metal sheets and other waste materials interspersed with the occasional brick home. There are earth roads and no drains. Water is mainly from wells and the few homes which have electricity normally have DIY installations with dubious safety levels. People struggle to survive in this area of high unemployment and serious social problems. In 2008 we were able to fund extensions to three of the most overcrowded homes which also provided welcomed employment for local building workers. Building materials were provided to enable families, many of whom have good basic construction skills, to undertake the work themselves. When the group returned home all outstanding work was completed using local labour. For these community projects a relatively small amount of funding will benefit a number of families and encourage them to help themselves. Volunteers greatly value the involvement in this type of work which has given them the opportunity to meet local families.



There are many small children in the area some of whom suffer serious abuse. For over 20 years Teo Rivas, the administrator for the Anglican Diocese, together with his wife Lidia and a group of dedicated workers, have run a children's club in a small brick building on a plot of land near to some of the worst housing. This year Mission Paraguay was able to buy this land to secure the future of the children's work in the area and it is planned that, if sufficient funds are forthcoming, to fund the erection of a larger brick building in 2009 with a piped water supply allowing toilets and showers to be incorporated. Members of the group assisted with the building of a security wall along part of the boundary, painted the outside of the existing building and concreted a path and new base to the well. This site was the main focus of the group's work with sewing and knitting workshops and a range of children's activities being organised on a daily basis. Details of these are given below on pages 6 and 7.

In 2005, through the generosity of one of the churches involved in the volunteer programme, a large piece of land was bought at Emboscada, which is about 40km north east of the centre of Asunción, and since then we have been funding the development of a retreat centre to be used on a regular basis by all the congregations in the Asunción area and the schools and faculty which operate through the Anglican Church. Although no major work was undertaken during 2008, the completion of the electrical installation work to the main building was financed. Members of the July group completed some painting at the Emboscada Centre while others undertook significant redecoration work at the Esperanza Foster Home in Asunción which was established a few years ago by mission partners Murray and Penny Metcalf.



**Redecoration at Esperanza**

After the group left for home Teo Rivas wrote : *"The whole experience was positive in every sense. The children and youth were amazed that people from another culture could come and fit in with them so easily and have such fun. Everyone's asking when they'll come back."*

**Please pray** for Teo and Lidia Rivas, their co-workers at San Lorenzo and for Pastor Agustin and Teresa who have recently taken responsibility for the running of the Esperanza Foster Home.

## Concepción

From Asunción a 6 hour ride along the trans Chaco highway on a bus crowded with people, many of whom stand for the whole journey sometimes accompanied by one or two hens, ends at Concepción a town on the east bank of the Rio Paraguay. Red earth roads, horses and carts mixed with the occasional 4x4, pigs and other animals, plenty of noise, a few heavily armed soldiers and small motorbikes



sometimes carrying an adult and up to 4 children, characterise the town. Day-to-day survival is difficult for most people and there are few employment opportunities. For a number of years volunteers have been visiting Concepción through Mission Paraguay and much of their time is spent assisting Claire Holmes, a missionary from Ireland, who works tirelessly with children and young people in many areas of Concepción and the surrounding Chaco. The work is expanding and Claire has built up a team of dedicated Paraguayan helpers. This year 11 volunteers from Ireland and England worked there for 2½ weeks in August and for much of the time they travelled daily with Claire and her team to undertake craft work, lead drama and singing, give tuition in English and assist with a range of activities with children of all ages in different districts of Concepción and in outlying areas of the Chaco.

Members of the team were also able to visit Yvopovo an isolated area about 60 km from Concepción along very poor earth roads. Apart from work on farms there is little employment for the 150 families living in the area. Although the work of the church has been established for about 8 years in the area, they have been without a building. In 2008 Mission Paraguay was able to fund the start of a building to be used as a church, for work with children and for general outreach into the local community. Funds only allowed for the erection of the tinglado (sheet metal roof) which provides welcomed shade and shelter together with a small room and toilet. If sufficient funding is available in 2009, it is planned to complete the construction of the remainder of the building.

Recently using other sources of funding, a piece of land was purchased at Remonita a developing area on the outskirts of Concepción, to provide a base for the Anglican Church to work in the local community. The land had been fenced and members of the group were able to level off the land and begin the foundations of a building to be used for work with children. After the group returned home Claire wrote of the developing work at Remonita: “.... we have been having a



*group of 25-50 children, and some young people and adults coming every Friday night, to play, sing, and learn the Bible stories and how much God loves them. A lot of people have already given their life to the Lord and are now starting on the path of following Him. Over time, as the roads that were once fields open up, it will be close to our work in Villa Alta, where the plot of land that we are working on is now quite small for the outdoor meetings that we have. We may over time try bit by bit to amalgamate the two works.”*

**Please pray** for Claire Holmes and her team and for their work amongst the children of Concepción and that she may find sufficient time for rest and relaxation. Pray also for the ministry of Auxiliary Bishop Andrés Rodríguez and Pastor Guillermo Diana Rojas in the Concepción area.

### **Some personal reflections from Ashley Barker who worked at Concepción:**

*I was very pleased to join the Mission Paraguay team in August 2008 and was assigned to work in and around Concepción. Our team ranged in age from 17 to 70 and it was encouraging to work with them on a variety of jobs. Some days were spent digging a trench for the foundations of a new building, and a little time helping to build a small wall in the main*

church compound. We also did several days painting at the church and some of the walls around the church compound. It was encouraging to work alongside Bishop Andrés and his team, not just in the building and painting but also in the work with children. On many occasions, we accompanied the Bishop and Claire Holmes and their dedicated team of helpers. Each time about 50 children and some adults would gather for a time of singing choruses, games, puppet show and a Bible story. It was wonderful to experience the enthusiasm of the team seeking to extend God's kingdom and the way the children responded. The Paraguayan people connected with the Church in Concepción, did not have many of the things we so often take for granted, but they are rich in their warmth of welcome, friendliness and in their love for the Lord. It was great to be with them and humbling to see how grateful they were for our visit.

*Thank you to all who made my time Paraguay possible and so memorable. It wasn't just a physical journey; it was a spiritual one as well.*

## **Rio Verde in the Chaco**

In 2004, 2 volunteer groups worked with Paraguayan and Indian builders to erect a large church at Yatnata and towards the end of their time there a start was made to construct a small building to serve a variety of uses for the community including a base for visiting medical staff, emergency living accommodation and storage facilities. Part of our work in 2008 was to work to complete this building which is now in use and we were fortunate to have volunteers with good bricklaying skills. The whole of the Chaco suffers from severe drought for much of the year. There is no piped water supply and underground brick built storage tanks known as aljibes are used to collect rainwater from nearby buildings. Two old disused aljibes are close to the building and funding was sufficient to enable these to be refurbished and supplied with piping to collect rainwater from the roof. Although there was a serious drought in the Chaco throughout July and August a couple of days after the work was finished a light 5 minute shower occurred leading to an emotional time as the first few drops of water ran into the aljibes.



Accommodation for the 2008 group of 10 people was at the Anglican Centre at Rio Verde which a few months before had been supplied with electricity. Luxury indeed compared to visits in previous years. While all volunteers use bottled water for drinking and cooking, the nearby aljibes normally supply water for washing. This year because of the drought these were empty but were refilled for our visit with reasonably clean water from the local large pond. Specific donations allowed local labour to be employed to transport water in a small wheeled tanker (funded earlier in the year by a UK church) to fill a number of other aljibes in the Indian community with water from the same source. It was not until mid October that significant rain relieved the situation. This year Mission Paraguay was also able to fund the building of one new aljibe at Rio Verde to store 21,000 litres of rainwater for the local community. At a cost of approximately £1,500 an aljibe brings real benefit to people in an area where it is not possible to drill for wholesome water. If there is no rainwater they have to drink water from the local pond which is dirty and often contaminated.

In 2008 a start was made to build a new church for the well established community in Rio Verde to replace the old one which they have to vacate. In a similar manner to the new church at Yvopovo near Concepción, the site has been cleared allowing the foundations, base to the walls and tinglado roof to be completed. A number of the volunteers spent time assisting Mouro, the builder and, funding permitting, the building will be finished in 2009. Ed Brice, a mission partner who has worked in Paraguay, particularly the Chaco for much of his life, is pastor to the Rio Verde church. Ed regularly travels from Asunción to visit churches in the Chaco and the time he spent with the group at Rio Verde sharing his vast knowledge gave a real insight into life in the Chaco and of how from the first visits of

missionaries bringing the Gospel towards the end of the nineteenth century, the Anglican church has been instrumental in developing communities as the traditional hunter/gatherer way of life has ceased through land clearance and the development of cattle ranching in much of the Chaco.



The homes of the indigenous Indian people living in the Chaco are mostly built with walls of palm logs, earth floors and roofs of corrugated metal sheets. Many are in a very poor condition being constructed of a mixture of plastic sheets, palm logs, pieces of timber and whatever other material is available. There are no builders merchants near these communities. Materials have to be transported long distances.

Chris Hawksbee, a mission partner who has lived in Paraguay for much of his life and is currently leading a number of self-sufficiency initiatives amongst the indigenous communities, has developed a simple system of constructing one room homes using local labour and hand made adobe bricks manufactured in the Chaco. This year a number of donors grasped the vision and, through Mission Paraguay funded the building of 10 new homes. Although work is still continuing some houses are already occupied, one being used by the local midwife as both her home and consulting room. Members of the Rio Verde group also built 2 simple timber homes for local families on land acquired for them through the local church.

**Adobe home under construction**



Living in the Chaco for 2½ weeks allowed many opportunities for working with children, visiting the different villages and building relationships with the community, despite the language and cultural difficulties. The terrain of the Chaco is completely flat and high winds at certain times of the year cause dust storms. Serious fires fuelled by the dry conditions can rage out of control and, on occasions, temperatures can vary as much as 30 degrees Celsius in 24 hours. These are harsh living conditions for the indigenous people but every year group members express how privileged they feel at being able to spend time in these communities.

**Please pray** for the communities of *El Estribo, La Patria and Sombrero Piri*; for the community leaders and the local pastors and for their relationship with the wider Paraguayan church. Also pray for the ongoing ministries of Chris Hawksbee and Ed Brice amongst the indigenous people and for their safety in travelling.

### **The sewing workshops**

Members of the July group brought with them 3 new, portable sewing machines and materials. These together with a range of materials bought or donated from fabric shops in Asunción and second-hand machines sent from the UK earlier in the year, provided enough resources to begin the workshops drawing in over 100 people to the church centres at Luque, San Lorenzo and Concepción through opportunities to sew and knit.



The chance to make garments for their families meant that numbers grew as word spread. People who had never used a sewing machine before, after basic tuition were able to make simple garments including trousers and shorts for children and adults, sheets, pillow cases and shoulder bags. It was wonderful to see the delight as each item was completed. Two adventurous people made a dress and a matching top and skirt. Some children learnt to knit, including boys who made scarves. Three or four translators from local churches collaborated with the groups and got involved in sewing or knitting, some for the first time. Many pairs of spectacles donated from UK sources were also distributed. The high cost makes them unattainable for

many Paraguayans and the acquisition of frames allows people to have lenses fitted to their requirements. The workshops provided ideal opportunities for volunteers' interaction with local people.

Pastor Jorge who hosted the group at Luque wrote of the visit: *"The group were so talented and worked so hard, it gave the whole church a boost. The activities brought new people from the neighbourhood into the church for the first time. This has strengthened and encouraged the congregation. The children's work has grown and the sewing workshop, started by Mission Paraguay, is drawing people in."*

It was planned to run the workshops as an experiment during July but they are continuing. At San Lorenzo the workshop is now running 2 afternoons a week. A small charge is made for training which helps participants value what they learn and draws in money for resources. A timely donation from Ireland financed further purchases of materials enabling the production of articles to sell. The funds raised help the women sustain their families and provide money to operate the club. The original participants, who are now running the workshop, are planning to train more women from the community at the beginning of 2009. At Luque, sewing and knitting continues each week with a local volunteer providing expertise. A sale of items in November aimed to raise money for fabric for more workshops in March. Estela Rodriguez, wife of Bishop Andrés, manages the weekly sewing club in Concepción where children are also being taught to crochet.

A range of donated resources and consumable materials left the UK in containers at the end of 2008 and more will be sent in 2009. These together with special fundraising initiatives particularly through SAMS Ireland will help sustain the workshops until they are able to become self-sufficient and will enable the development of similar initiatives at Zeballos Cue and St Andrew's Church in the centre of Asunción during 2009.

## **Work with children**

This year, as in previous years, in each group there were many gifted people who specifically wished to work with children of all ages. This work cuts across language barriers and cultural differences resulting in a great deal of fun for local children and the many adults who join in.



The July group's work centred upon the children's clubs at San Lorenzo and Luque. We greatly appreciated the preparation work undertaken by Penny Metcalf and local leaders of the children's groups. Members of the group also worked with staff from FEISA, the Anglican Teacher Training College in Asunción helping with the mobile toy library at various venues. This valued resource travels to communities in the area providing opportunities for children, many of whom have no toys, to learn through play. While visiting the toy library at Zeballos Cue the group assisted with the weekly soup kitchen which provides a nutritious meal for up to 80 children in a building funded in 2005. FEISA is also developing a toy library at Yatnata in the Chaco where mothers, delighted at the initiative, are being trained in its use.

During their time in the Chaco some volunteers were able on a number of occasions to work with children at the primary school at La Rosa Cue and also visit one of FEISA's training events which attracted teachers from many Chaco villages to learn how to use interactive materials being provided for their classes. Many schools in the Chaco lack sufficient furniture and have few if any resources or books. Some teachers have only a basic primary education and little training. Pupil absenteeism is often high because of a lack of stimulation and in this context FEISA, who's continuing work relies almost entirely upon donations and grants from the UK, is doing valuable work in provide training and resources.

**Please pray** for the work of FEISA, for the continued success of the toy library in and around the Asunción area and for their pioneering work in the Chaco. Also pray for Pastor Luis Echeverria and his wife Regina and the congregation at Zeballos Cue.

## **Medical work**

As in past years, Mission Paraguay was able to fund urgent medical treatment and medicines for a number of people particularly in the Asunción area. In addition to paying for visits to consultants and x-rays this included urgent treatment for a little girl aged about 2 years who was suffering from malnutrition and what is known locally as winter fever. Once again during the year, thanks to the generosity of GP's and other supporters, we have been able to send first aid and general medical supplies and equipment to Paraguay. Much of this benefited the work of nurse Beryl Baker who has worked in the Chaco for many years. Although there are a number of local health promoters, Beryl is the only fully qualified health worker for many thousands of indigenous people living in isolated communities across a large area. People begin arriving at the small clinic near her home at 6.30am and her work is varied involving treatment for parasites, TB, snakebite, cancer and knife wounds and providing basic dentistry and family planning advice. There are no hospitals in the Chaco and the Anglican Church provides assistance to transport Indian people requiring medical attention to a hospital in Asunción or Concepción. During August, one of the volunteers, a nurse from Northern Ireland was able to work with Beryl.

**Please pray** for Beryl Baker, for her safety in travelling and her day-to-day dedication to provide the medical support for thousands of indigenous Indian people in the Chaco. Pray also for the health promoters working in isolation in their villages located many miles from a tarmac road.

## **Relaxation**

As in past years, Mission Paraguay ended with a journey to Brazil to relax in a hotel and experience the spectacular beauty of creation through a visit to the Iguazu Falls. This year we were indebted to Silvia Torres a member of St Andrew's Church in Asunción who led the visits. Silvia also assisted as one of our translators and together with Caroline Gilmour-White prepared excellent meals with a minimum of facilities for the Chaco group.



## **An update on some past projects**

Below is a brief update on some past projects. We give thanks to see how God is working through the local church in these areas and how the communities are developing. It was a particular blessing in 2008 that some of the volunteers who worked on the projects in 2007 were able to revisit and see completed buildings now in use.

## The multi uso building at Inmaculada, Concepción

Wherever possible the buildings which we construct for the local church and community are multi uso (multi purpose). In 2008 a multi uso building was completed at Inmaculada, a particularly deprived area of Concepción. As well as being the base for the recently established sewing project, it is now well used by the church as a venue for study and outreach into the local community.



A variety of weekly children and youth events are held there and a monthly meal attracts many children from poor families. The building provides a venue for specialist help with family and social issues given voluntarily on a weekly basis. This building follows the construction in 2007 on the same site of an albergue (hostel) specifically for the use of the indigenous Indian people from the Chaco when visiting and providing for family members needing hospital care in Concepción. The albergue is in almost constant use.



## The new church at Para Todoi in the Chaco

In August 2007, 11 volunteers worked with Paraguayan and indigenous Indian builders to build a simple church at Para Todoi which is one of a number of Enxet Indian villages connected by dirt roads in an area known as El Estribo located almost 400km northwest of Asunción. The Anglican Church has a significant presence in El Estribo and in common with other similar



areas the local pastors provide vision and clear leadership in the development of these communities. The church is now finished and, as with the other churches built over the last few years, it is significant in the development of the village because it is not only a centre for Christian worship but it also provides a much needed community building for a range of other activities. The aljibe funded as part of the church building now provides for additional rainwater collection for the community.



***“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6 v10***





# Mission Paraguay 2009

Plans are currently underway for the visits of volunteers from Churches in England and Ireland to work for 3 weeks on a variety of projects organised through the Anglican Church in Paraguay and in association with the South American Mission Society (SAMS).

## July Group

This group will be based on the outskirts of Asunción, the capital, and visit a number of different communities in the area. It is planned that the activities will include:

- involvement with the sewing and knitting workshops;
- assisting with a new building project to provide facilities for work with children and young people and for outreach into the local community;
- assisting with basic home improvements in some of the poorest areas of Asunción;
- working with children and young people in a number of communities.

It is anticipated that this group will spend a few days in the Chaco to visit some of the Indian communities where Mission Paraguay has previously worked.

## August Group

Some members of the August group will be based in Concepción and it is planned that they will:

- work with Claire Holmes and her team amongst the children and young people in Concepción and the surrounding area;
- undertake some small scale building work and painting;
- visit Yvapovo which is about 2 hours drive from Concepción where Mission Paraguay is funding the construction of a small church for a growing congregation.

Other members of the August group will work in the Chaco. Their activities will include:

- assisting in the completion of the building of a church begun in 2008 at Rio Verde;
- involvement in a variety of home improvements such as the construction of new corrugated metal roofs on Indian homes to replace those made of logs and plastic sheets;
- assisting with a water storage project. In 2009 we hope to be able to fund the building of at least one aljibe (£1,500) which is an underground storage tank for rainwater collection.

As in previous years the July and Chaco groups will have the opportunity to work with FEISA the Anglican Early Years Teacher Training College which operates a mobile toy library and undertakes groundbreaking training and development work in some of the indigenous schools in the Chaco.

All planned projects are dependent upon the available funding at the time of the visits. The cost of the work and activities undertaken are all met from donations from the UK and Ireland. All donations are channelled to Paraguay through the South American Mission Society (SAMS), or Burscough Outreach Trust (Charity No: 1089034).

**If you would like further information about how you may support the work of Mission Paraguay or if you wish to take part in a short-term mission trip to Paraguay in 2009, please contact the UK Co-ordinator:**

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**Please pray that God will direct the plans and arrangements currently underway for the Mission Paraguay programme for 2009. Please also pray for the ongoing work of the Anglican Church in the Chaco, Concepción and Asunción and particularly for Rev. Peter Bartlett who will be instituted as Bishop of Paraguay in March 2009.**