

Paraguay Prayer Calendar May & June 2011



Celebration Murals St Andrews School, 200 years of Independence 15th May 2011

Week Sun 1 – Sat 7 May Give thanks to God!

He always leads us in the winners' parade because we belong to Christ. Through us, God spreads the knowledge of Christ everywhere like perfume. 2 Corin 2:14 New International Reader's Version

- We join Paraguayans across the whole country in thanking God for **abundant rain** in recent weeks and months which has filled up the water reserves in the Chaco and produced abundant plant growth
- We thank God for the **Holy Week celebrations** in La Patria, Sombrero Piri and El Estribo, with teaching sessions, puppets, clowns and games for children. The attendance was very good.
- We praise God for **believers in Palo Blanco & Yatnata** who have confessed a desire to return to God. In these churches attendance is increasing after a period of serious problems.
- Linn T. praises God for his provision to St Andrews College of a wonderful **new librarian, Angela**, who has come in with a clean sweep and is reorganising things. Please pray for Angela as she works very hard during the school day and then goes home to her church duties with children's choirs and supporting her husband a Presbyterian pastor in Luque. Please pray for God to uphold her and give her strength every day. She is very precious.
- We thank God for **Anglican Marriage Encounter** and pray for wisdom for the leaders, Ronald & Nicky Irene, Miriam & Miguel Greco, Jorge & Rebeca Arévalos, Claudio & Carmen, Juan Carlos & Sylvia, praying also for all couples who attend this weekend's Encounter that Gods' love would be shed abroad in their hearts and that peace and reconciliation would be granted where there has been conflict
- Ana Maria D asks us to join **FEISA** in thanking God for the building of a **new bathroom**, thankful for the generous donation which made this possible, thankful also for the **36 first year students**, for the beautiful Easter service and all those who work for FEISA.
- Noemí C thanks God his mercies which are new every day, especially for the provision of a new driver for the **FEISA mobile Toy Library**
- Mari Brice asks us to thank God for **Luis & Elsita** who have taken on responsibility for working with the children in St Matthews Rio Verde
- We join Ed Brice in thanking God for work on the Énxet version of the **SEAN Bible Study Manual**
- Along with Luis and Regina Echeverria we thank God for the improvement in the spiritual environment of the **Redeemer church** in Zeballos Cue and pray along with them for strong growth and commitment in the church's ministry

Please remember in your prayers this week the Anglican Marriage Encounter taking place on May 6,7, & 8th for each couple: *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5: 3-5*

Week Sun 8 – Sat 14 May Praying for Paraguay

This week we pray for the nation of Paraguay celebrating 200 years of independence from Spain. *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.* Psalm 33:12

Please pray for Paraguay:

- for President Lugo and the government for wisdom and good governance
- for the church as it prays and responds to proposed legislation which would effect social changes which many Christians believe to be against biblical teaching on the nature of the family
- for all those who are ill due to the continuing dengue fever epidemic, and as health resources are stretched to the limits with hospitals and clinics temporarily closing down non essential wards to make room for more beds for patients with dengue, for patients and their carers whether they be doctors and nurses or family members
- for effective measures to be taken to halt the spread of dengue through prevention of reproduction of the dengue carrying mosquito and for those affected by allergies and reactions to the strong insecticides used to spray streets, gardens and houses against the mosquitoes
- for increased health care provision in the Chaco also remembering nurse Beryl Baker and her health clinic in Rio Verde
- for Mission Paraguay and David Orritt as the orientation event for the August group takes place on 14th May in Lancashire, thanking God for the people he has called and that once again they have the right range of gifts and experience. Also thanking God for the generosity of people and churches supporting this work despite difficult economic times in the UK
- thanking God for the beauty of Paraguay, its flora and fauna and natural resources, praying that they will be carefully used and cared for
- for all foreign aid and mission workers who have chosen to make Paraguay their home asking for safety, good health and a God given ability to work for the long term blessing of Paraguay, remembering also their families in other parts of the world and praying especially for Caroline Gilmour White's family as they plan for her father Tim's care after a spell in hospital in Exeter

*LORD, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing. You guard all that is mine.
The land you have given me is a pleasant land. What a wonderful inheritance!* Psalm 16:5,6

Week Sun 15 – Sat 21 May Praying for the Chaco

God lifts the poor from the dust and the needy from the garbage dump. He sets them among princes, placing them in seats of honour. For all the earth is the LORD's, and he has set the world in order. He will protect his faithful ones, but the wicked will disappear in darkness. No one will succeed by strength alone. 1 Sam 2:8,9

We thank God for Paraguay today 15th May on it's Independence Day (Paraguay declared independence from Spain on the 15th May, 1812) asking God to abundantly bless Paraguay in the next stage of this nation's history. Please pray for:

- Tim Curtis has rejoined the translation team and has restarted checking on completed Old Testament drafts, hoping to finish the checking of 2 Kings and Amos in the next few weeks. Thanking God that Ed Brice was able to supervise the translation team in Rio Verde during Tim's absence
- the family of an 8 year old boy who died after being bitten by a rattlesnake that the resurrection of the Lord may bring in hope at this time of tragedy, also praying for protection of young children in the Chaco from snakebites
- translator Martin and his wife Mariana, for spiritual protection during this period of mourning for the sad loss of their prematurely born twins, that they too may know the hope of the resurrection of Jesus
- protection for the Enxet translation team, Tim, Asunción, Juan & Martin and caretaker Nelson and their families in Rio Verde
- the pupils from St Andrews School who recently visited the Chaco which provided them with the opportunity to see and experience the reality of the Chaco and to find out more about the life of its indigenous people, as they participated in small scale social projects, we pray that God will bless this learning experience
- this month's Chaco Bible Week for pastors and pastoral workers
- God to provide a guitar teacher for the young people in Rio Verde
- the next steps in the production of a new hymn book and the SEAN Bible Study Manual
- Chris and Alison Hawksbee as Chris carries out his work in the Chaco, rejoicing with those who have received cattle and goats. Praying for the success of the Moringa harvest. Please pray for further projects that funding may be looked upon favourable so that the level of development in neighbouring communities will be raised and so envy reduced

Week Sun 22 – Sat 28 May Praying the Golden Rule

John Wesley's Golden Rule is based on the Jesus' words: *And as you desire that men should do to you, you do also to them likewise.* Luke 6:31 The Bible also says *Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.* 1 Peter 3:9

Please pray for the pastors in Asuncion as they put into practice and teach the principles of growing towards maturity in Christ, that their attitudes, words and actions would bless their congregations.

Pastor Luis Echeverría asks us to pray for the church in Zeballos Cue:

- the newly elected church council of the Redeemer Church praying that they will work together for the good of the church and community in Zeballos Cue
- thanking God for the Friday evening prayer meetings
- for those who are students and for Luis himself as he works on his degree thesis
- for the leaders' Bible study, ladies' meeting and youth group as they are restructured
- for a strengthening of the music group

Please pray for the leaders of the EJE Youth in the Spirit Encounter which is taking place on the 27th, 28th, 29th May, especially praying for David Greco for wisdom and good organisation, praying also for all the young people who will be participating in the event that they will be greatly blessed as they respond to Jesus' call to follow him.

We pray for the urban Anglican congregations that each member would bless their churches, families and friends as they seek to follow Jesus. Please pray specifically for:

- **St Pauls, Concepción**, for Bishop Andres & Estela as they concentrate on developing the church in Concepción
- **St Andrews Cathedral, Asunción**, for Agustín & Teresa, Ronnie & Nicky for wisdom as they pastor and disciple and that there might be growth in numbers
- **St Andrews 7pm, Asunción**, for wisdom for pastors Ronald and Donald, and for spiritual openness in all who attend as changes occur and for the Saturday Bible study group which Raquel Greco is leading with Ryan Morgan
- **St Andrews Chapel, Asunción**, thankful for good numbers and new attenders and for wisdom for coordinator Babs Owen

David Orritt (Mission Paraguay) asks us to pray for the orientation meeting in Birmingham on May 28th for the July Mission Group and giving thanks for the support and encouragement of SAMS Ireland for the work of Mission Paraguay, and praying that God will continue to oversee ongoing planning and liaison with supporters.

The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you. ~John E. Southard

Week Sun 29 May – Sat 4 June Waiting

For forty days after Jesus had suffered and died, he proved in many ways that he had been raised from death. He appeared to his apostles and spoke to them about God's kingdom. While he was still with them, he said: Don't leave Jerusalem yet. Wait here for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, just as I told you he has promised to do. Acts 1:3,4

During this time between Easter and Pentecost we ask God to accompany us in our times of waiting and we pray for all believers that we will be given the humility to wait for God to do his good work in our lives and the situations in which we are involved.

Marie Brice, Caroline Gilmour-White and Teresa Maidana are planning the launch of a sewing workshop in Rio Verde which local women could continue. They hope to visit in June and ask us to pray that God would help them with ideas and resources that He knows will work.

We pray for the Diocesan Executive Committee, thanking God for each member and their contribution asking that they would be guided in their decision making. Lord bless Bishops Peter and Andres, Agustin, Luis, Mags, Mario, Romualdo and Sara.

- **Emanuel Church, Luque**, ask us to pray for Cristina's father in law who has bone cancer and for Doña Roberta and her family following the death of her husband Desederio and praying for the health of her son Roberto who has diabetes
- **San Lorenzo club**, for Teo, Lidia, Pedro and his wife
- **St John's, Roque Alonzo**, Pastor Lucho & Estela ask for God's wisdom and protection as there are some church members with legalistic attitudes which are causing problems and lack of unity
- **King of kings, Remansito**, seeking God's will in nurturing and discipling the new attenders
- **Mirador**, thankful for the ongoing improvements in their community building
- **Redeemer Church, Zeballos Cue**, thankful for the building work on the Youth Space and praying that the children's soup kitchen would be enabled to keep running
- Pray for the cell group meeting in **Ipvu** in Eusebio Vega's home, for their witness in the community

The apostles often met together and prayed with a single purpose in mind.

The women and Mary the mother of Jesus would meet with them, and so would his brothers. Acts 1:14

We pray for our churches that we would be enabled to meet together in prayer and unity, having in mind one single purpose - the mission which Jesus gave the disciples to go to the people of all nations and make them disciples of Jesus, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them all that Jesus taught (Matt 28:19,20).

Week Sun 5 – Sat 11 June Learning about the Kingdom

Jesus appeared to his apostles and spoke to them about God's kingdom. Acts 1:3

Please pray for church leaders in the Anglican Church in Paraguay for:

- faithfulness in study of the Holy Scriptures
- humble and teachable attitudes
- protection for them and their families
- provision of resources
- good health and safety
- fresh filling of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control by the Holy Spirit
- boldness in preaching Christ
- peaceful relationships with colleagues
- accountability

+Peter & Sally Bartlett & +Andrés & Estela Rodríguez; Agustín & Teresa Maidana, Ed & Marie Brice, Juan & Alicia Sosa, Lucio & Priscilla Romero, Luis & Regina Echeverría, Mario & Rosa Caballero, Robert & Cristina Fernández, Elvio & Lorenza Cabañas, Cefe & Ana Romero, Agripino & Nilda Cerro, Ronald & Nicky Irene, Mario & Agustina Recalde, Niño Pepe & Feliciano Agüero & Romualdo & Yrna Rojas, Donald & Caroline Brooks and Lucho & Estela Robles

Please pray for Drs Richard and Joan Forde visiting Asunción from the 5th – 20th June and leading a seminar on principles of church leadership.

We thank the Lord for Sharon McCririe and pray for her ministry in Asunción that during this time of waiting the Lord will continue to show Sharon the way forward.

*Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*Let holy charity mine outward vesture be, and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part, and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.*

*And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place where in the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

Week Sun 12 – Say 18 June Pentecost

Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. Romans 12:10

This Pentecost week as we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, let us pray that we will eagerly follow the Holy Spirit as we seek to serve the Lord in our everyday living, in our families, responsibilities and churches. Let us pray that the Spirit will teach us how to love sincerely and how to honour others, counting them as more than we count ourselves.

You might like to take some quiet moments this week to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in any relationships where you are aware of hurt, a lack of peace or lack of forgiveness.

This week we pray specifically for the churches and communities in the Chaco:

- **Rivers of Living Water**, Holy Spirit we pray that the members and leaders of this community *might live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit* (Galatians 5:25)
- **Spring of Eternal Life**, praying for pastor Elvio and Lorenza, that the Spirit of Eternal Life would cause life to flourish *as the believers sow in the Spirit and reap life everlasting* (Gal 6:8)
- **St Matthews**, praying for pastor Ed and his wife Marie, for the Spirit's enabling as they teach the way of Jesus: *Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others. I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners.* Matthew 9:13
- **Rock of Peace**, pastor Lucio and his wife Priscila, *praying that God, who gives hope, will bless this community with happiness and peace because of their faith. And may the power of the Holy Spirit fill them with hope.* (Romans 15:1)
- **San Fernandez**, pastor Robert and his wife Cristina, *praying that the church will become stronger, as the Holy Spirit encourages it and helps it to grow.* (Acts 9:31)
- **Encounter with God**, pastor Mario and his wife Rosa, praying that the Holy Spirit will breathe new life into many lives: *only God's Spirit can change a person into a child of God* (John 3:6)
- **St Peters**, pastor Juan and his wife Alicia, deacon Romualdo and his wife Yrna, praying that many would *turn back to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, receiving forgiveness of sins will be forgiven and be given the Holy Spirit* (Acts 2:38)
- **La Leona**, deacon Agripino and his wife Nilda, praying that the believers *will be filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit* (Acts 13:52)
- **La Paciencia**, deacon Niño Pepe and his wife Felicianita, praying that as they *imitate Christ and welcome his Word in spite of afflictions they will be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit* (1Thess 1:6)
- **Colonia 24**, deacon Mario and his wife Agustina asking *that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in Jesus' name, will teach all things and bring all things to remembrance, what Jesus taught.* John 14:26
- **the many smaller Chaco churches** that *believers will receive the power as the Holy Spirit comes upon them and that they will be witnesses to Jesus both in and outside of their communities* (Acts 1:8)

Week Sun 19 – Sat 25 June Children of God our Father

Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts. And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father. Gal 4:6

The Anglican Church in Paraguay, and several of its ministries and institutions under its umbrella, touches the lives of many children including some children who live on the margins.

Heavenly Father we pray for all the **children** who attend Anglican Sunday Schools and children's clubs, for Your Word to be sown in fertile soil in their lives. Thank you that you are the Lord of the harvest and will produce good fruit in Your perfect timing. We thank you for all who lead and help in these activities and pray that they would be motivated by the Holy Spirit and love for Jesus. Amen.

Heavenly Father we pray for **teachers** and for St Andrews College director, **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy **Mags Southern**, Annexe School Head, **Victor Santa Cruz**, deputy **Mirta Moyano**, and consultant **Nelson Aguilera** in the many challenges that they are facing. We pray for all Christian staff especially remembering: **Alison H, Sam, Tally & Pat**, and St Andrews staff: **Babs O, Carol M, Caroline B, Linn T, Miriam G, Miguel G, Nicky I, Raquel G, Regina E, Rita C, Ryan M, Neill B, Beth, Miriam G, Linn T, Regina E. Jo & Zoe** and chaplain **Ronald Irene**. We pray for unity in Jesus and for a lasting impact in the lives of the children who attend these schools.

Heavenly Father we pray for Bishop Peter, Sally, Ronald and Nicky in the preparation of the **parenting** sessions and pray that key families would be drawn to take part in this project. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for a fresh anointing upon all who work in the **Annexe School**. May many children and young people come into a right relationship with you through the work of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the hope which is found in Jesus. We pray for **FEISA**, thanking you for the provision of a new driver for the **Toy Library**, for the opportunity to sow the Word of God in the hearts of many children through the Toy Library Sessions. May your love be shown through the words and actions of the students in their interactions with the little ones. We pray that you will give the staff the wisdom to know how to reach the students with the Gospel of Peace, that they might know Jesus in a different manner, and have a relationship with him which is not just a religion. We thank you for all the donations which have enabled FEISA to carry on its work. Amen

Heavenly Father we pray for **Esperanza**, for Teresa, Juana and Mariela. Grant them strength, wisdom, good humour and bless the work of their hands as they serve you and minister love, friendship and kind discipline to the children in the home. Amen.

Week Sun 26 – Thurs 30 June Making mistakes

It has been said that the most valuable currency in 2011 is not money. Nor is it intelligence or attractiveness. It is relationship. A 2002 Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences was awarded to a psychology professor at Princeton University whose studies prove beyond any doubt that we behave emotionally first, rationally second. If we translate that to our jobs, churches, organisation, families and friends, we realise that each one of us can accumulate or lose emotional capital. It is easy to make mistakes!

This week let's take time to pray for ourselves and our churches that we might be enabled to learn to be more godly. Jesus can teach us to forgive one another, to speak the truth lovingly, to count others needs as more important than our own, to be patient and compassionate. He will teach us about important things like justice, mercy and faithfulness. Amazingly we would not learn to grow in such godly aspects if our communities were not made of people who struggle and make mistakes.

This week you might like to take time and pray the Lord's prayer:

- reflecting on the quality of your relationships
- seeking God's forgiveness
- forgiving where there has been hurt and pain
- praying for someone you know is struggling or who has made mistakes they regret

*God has done it all! He sent Christ to make peace between himself and us,
and he has given us the work of making peace between himself and others.
What we mean is that God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.
And he has given us the work of sharing his message about peace. 2 Corin 5:19*

Thank you for praying for the Anglican Church in Paraguay,

+Peter & Sally Bartlett,
on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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