

Linn Tedman's News March 2008

Dear Friends,

We have had so many storms recently, so I am sending this out early whilst I can have my computer plugged in.

We have been back at work for a few weeks now and it seems a long time since I was with friends in UK. Many thanks to those who hosted me, those who prayed with me and for me, and to those who are supporting my work through SAMS. Your support and friendship mean a great deal to me. It was so good to be able to see so many of you. I apologize that I could not get to everybody in my short time in UK. I promise that I will visit those whom I missed this time, on my next visit.

Please keep your own news and prayer requests coming to me so that we can be real partners, supporting each other.

The Schools

The staff returned to school a week before the children to decorate rooms and to plan work.

The Lord has given us a wonderful answer to prayer.

In Primary we now have a South African teacher (Laura) working in 1st and 5th grades and an ex-pupil (Veronica) who has been in the US for many years. She is a highly qualified teacher who has come to be with us for six months and possibly longer. She is teaching some science and is teaching various classes.

In the secondary department we have a new, young English teacher (Rachel) who is full of fun.

I have moved back to the work I love, teaching information retrieval skills through topic work, in the library.

Elaine Hutchinson who teaches computer skills in the secondary department got engaged over Christmas when her boyfriend came out from Ireland to see her. She is now busy planning a September wedding. She will return to UK in July.

As usual we started the year with a two day spiritual input for the staff of both schools. This year Mags and Gwen, our school directors, were leading us. It was a very special time and it set the tone for the year. The children returned and had two half days to ease them in gently. We started with a lively service in the Cathedral. Now we are back to normal lessons and the holidays seem way behind us.

This week the 5th and 6th grades are going off for a three day Christian camp. They will be studying Esther. Some secondary pupils are going to Concepcion with Mags Southern and new teacher Rachel to paint hospital walls and to dig a latrine.

Our first break will be Holy Week, so we do not have long to go, but we will have a long haul to the July break.

The Churches

As yet there is no news about a possible new bishop. Apparently there will be more news at the Synod later this year.

My pastor, Revd. Tony Somervell and his wife Chris, have been delayed in the UK. The children have returned to Paraguay to resume their studies. Please pray for the whole family at this difficult time of separation. Also pray for the Cristo Salvador congregation as we attend other churches until Tony returns.

The Country

The main news focus has been on an outbreak of yellow fever in the country and some people have died. This caused widespread panic. The Government issued warnings as far back as eighteen months ago that Yellow Fever could reach Paraguay but no vaccination programmes were started. When yellow fever was confirmed there was very little vaccine in the country. People have been demonstrating and fighting each other and the authorities in order to get vaccinations.

Eventually neighbouring South American countries sent in vaccine and France has just sent 2 million doses. Over the course of a fortnight more people have been vaccinated. The problem seemed to be down to lack of monetary resources to pay for vaccine, but some money has now been found.

There is now a massive clean-up campaign to try to eradicate the breeding areas of the mosquitoes in rubbish which can trap water. A new law means that anybody who does not clean up will be put in prison. (Prisons are already grossly overcrowded.)

A problem associated with the new vaccination programme is that now there is not enough blood in the blood bank for operations etc. Those who have just been injected cannot donate blood. There have been many traffic accidents this week and blood is badly needed.

Other news has been about the President. He was speaking at a rally and had a bottle of water to drink. It had been 'spiked' with some acid which was potentially life-threatening. There is now a full investigation underway to try to ascertain how the acid came to be in the bottle. There is a great deal of propaganda against the President and the government at the moment.

Thankfully the electioneering campaigns seem to have taken a bit of a back seat on the news for a while, but this is probably the lull before the storm. There has been a lot of infighting in some of the political parties, but even the media seem tired of it.

Prayer points:-

1. Please continue to pray for the President and the government. Pray for them to have wisdom. Pray for their safety.
2. Pray for the Somervell family in their separation, and for the children as they settle back here. Pray that we can help them to adjust and not to worry.
3. Pray for good health for the staff of St. Andrew's and the Annexe School. Pray for the children to enjoy this year of study.
4. Pray for protection from Yellow Fever for the people of Paraguay. Many have no money for sprays and mosquito repellents. Pray for the entire population to be able to receive vaccine.
5. Pray for the Lord to be preparing the right person to become our next bishop here.

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If you wish to support my work through SAMS please contact Philip Tadman (Financial Secretary), Allen Gardiner Cottage, Pembury Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Kent TN2 3QU email<finsec@samsgb.org>