

“...the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

Luke 1:35

*Christmas Greetings and news from the Brices* Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007



## Departures

There was a tearful goodbye in the airport for **Bishop John and Judy Ellison** after nineteen years faithful service in Paraguay. His firm and determined leadership has seen the Anglican Church of Paraguay into the twenty first century more united than ever. Please continue to pray for John and Judy as they face the new challenges of living in a UK very different from the one they left.

Of course this was not the only departure since I last wrote to you. On the 11<sup>th</sup> July **Javier** flew off to Miami to take part in the programme which, he hoped, would win him a sports scholarship to study in the States. Despite a early injury, which severely affected his performance, he received scholarship offers from seven different universities (Praise the Lord.) though none were to play soccer! He has accepted the offer from Lindenwood University in St Louis, Missouri but wasn't able to get his visa sorted out in time for the August start. So he will be starting on the 17<sup>th</sup> **January** instead. This has given him a bit more time to think things through and one of the things he wanted to sort out was his Christian commitment. On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September he was **baptised**. He will be flying to the States, God willing, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January and will spend a few days visiting friends and family before term begins.



Term began for **Derek** at the Redcliffe six form centre Bristol on the 5<sup>th</sup>



September. He continues to settle in well, according to **Andy and Jo Persson**, who have very kindly taken him under their roof. We praise the Lord that he has made contact with a number of Christians at the college and is also integrating into a good local church. Ed was able to accompany him on the trip to the UK and help him find his way around which was an additional blessing. Please continue to remember both Javier and Derek in their studies.

**Neill** continues to teach in Ciudad del Este and study translation, he visits Asunción about every other week-end but seems to be getting itchy feet again. **Ed and Marie** hope to travel to the UK for their next **home ministry** in August 2008 and may even be able to visit Javier on the way, that remains to be seen, but certainly we hope to have time with Derek during his summer holidays before he goes back to school.

## Moving forward

The work of the nominating committee continues. But **Bishop Andrés** will be responsible for overseeing the diocese until the new diocesan bishop is installed. Please continue to support Andrés in your prayers, at times he feels at the end of his tether. We are due to have a diocesan synod next March when, ideally, the name of a candidate for bishop could be voted on. But work at this, the hottest time of year when least work is done, will need special perseverance and grace.

**San Mateo** congregation in **Río Verde** is short of leaders but receives visits from some lay Christians from the Asunción area, as well as from local pastor, Teodoro and, of course, Ed. Please remember **Alberto** (from Roque Alonso), **Lorenzo** (from Asunción) and **Diego** (from Zeballos Cue). The congregation was especially encouraged two months ago. Doña Bety (now increasingly frail) received a visit from a lady who was concerned for her son-in-law who had a drink problem which was putting the future of his family at risk. She decided to ask for help at San Mateo because, she said, "I have never heard any bad comments about those people." Doña Bety invited her to church and sure enough the next Sunday, **Mercedes** and **Darío** were there. After the service they both asked God's forgiveness and made a commitment to follow Christ. Later that day **María**, Darío's wife, also committed her life to Christ. Although both Darío and María's work makes it difficult for them to attend church every Sunday they have made every effort to come when they can and Darío has had only one relapse. They have two small children.

Río Verde and many of the Indian communities continue to suffer from **drought**. In some cases many people move away temporarily in search of work and water. We are depending on tankers to bring water to the dry rain cystems at the Anglican Centre in Río Verde and we trust that this will be sufficient for us to be able to go ahead with our **weeks study** with 30 Indian Church leaders starting next Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking at chapter four of Philipians to see what it has to teach us about: resovling conflicts, prayer and giving. Please pray for those sharing the studies: **Bishop Andrés, Pastor Agustín and Chris Hawksbee** and for all the practicle arrangements.

The rain might not have come but the **electricity** has. First Río Verde and the translation office and now the more remote Indian community of Palo Blanco have seen the arrival of, not only,



cables but now the electricity. As you can see the church has been one of the first buildings to take advantage of it. Pray for the pastors and leaders of these communities as they face not just the benefits but also the new challenges of having electricity.



Since last writting Ed has been able to get all the pastors in El Estribo and Sombrero Pirí onto book two of the SEAN Matthew course.

We still have to respond to the challenge of providing regular support for the pastors in Makxawáya and of course La Patria. **But we thank God for this advance.**

*With all our love*

*Ed, Marie, Neill, Javier and Derek.*

Contact: Jim Huthwaite, 60 Holland Street, Fairfield,  
Liverpool L7 0JQ  
jim.huthwaite@btconnect.com tel.0151 228 8423