

Paraguay Prayer Calendar January & February 2010

Week Fri 1 – Thurs 7 Jan Thanking God for his wonderful deeds

Our God, we thank you for being so near to us! Everyone celebrates your wonderful deeds. Psalm 75:1

We celebrate the arrival of **rain** in Paraguay especially for the rain that fell in La Patria, the Chaco, after 10 months of drought. **Chris Hawksbee** has been able to supervise the digging of wells and preparation of water cisterns in some of the areas which were badly hit. El Niño means that parts of Paraguay have benefitted from rain and short breaks in the very hot weather during the last few months.

We celebrate with **17 new believers** in Remansito, Mirador and San Juan who were baptised in December and those who are being confirmed on the 2nd January.

We celebrate with Tim Curtis and the Enxet translation, the provision of a **new water cistern** which enabled them to store water during recent downpours and also thank God for **Nelson Franco** and his family as they caretake the Diocesan Centre in Rio Verde. **New transformers** have been obtained for the Translation Office Rio Verde, replacing those burnt out when there was a voltage surge due to electrical storms in November,

We celebrate the building of the **new school in Yatnata**, which has been built with aid from Spain, and please pray that God will call dedicated teachers to staff it.

We celebrate the **printing of David Powell's history of the work of the Anglican Church**, please pray for its sale and distribution that it will be a tool in God's hand for challenging and building up young Christians and that it will lead to a greater understanding of and respect for the diversity among God's people.

We celebrate with **FEISA**, giving all glory, honour and thankfulness to our God for enabling FEISA to say "Mission Accomplished" for this year. We thank God as we see how the vision of FEISA to "**Form to Transform**" has been fulfilled in the lives of our students and in those of the children in their care.

We celebrate the lives of the **many children** across the Diocese who take part in clubs, receiving spiritual help and physical care.

Week Fri 8 – Thurs 14 Jan Living Well Life's Rhythms...

*If I were a medical man, I should prescribe a holiday to any patient who considered his work important.
Bertrand Russell*

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Please pray for:

- good **rest** during January, **holiday time** in Paraguay, for the Bishops, clergy, lay leaders, mission partners, administrative personnel and those who work in our educational establishments that they may be refreshed, renewed and empowered for the year ahead, always remembering that is the Lord Christ who they serve.
- **Sharon McCririe** and the ministry team for the **Puerta** which is jelling in the Lord. Pray for God's direction for the processing of paper work and a spirit of discernment regarding which men to receive into the rehab program—men chosen of God to become His agents of healing for other addicts.
- **Charlie Mendez, David Greco** and **Raquel Greco** as they oversee the final preparations for the **Provincial Youth Camp**, praying also for all delegates as they travel to Paraguay from other countries and for all the Paraguayan youth who are taking part, that this encounter will be of great benefit enabling them to grow in leadership and service in the Church.

- **Ronald & Nicky Irene**, for all the changes that the move to Asuncion has involved, and for their children **Natasha, Tamara** and **Daniel** as they settle into the Paraguayan way of life and as they prepare to start school. Also we pray that Christ's light will shine and guide them as they start ministry in Paraguay.
- The translation team, **Tim Curtis, Juan, Asuncion** and **Martin** for spiritual strengthening during their holiday time. Also for good planning for the final stage of the Old Testament translation which is expected to take up to 3 – 4 years, concentrating on the revision and correction of the OT books in Enxet.
- **Donald Brooks**, as he starts to work mornings in the Diocesan Office, and for his ministry as a pastoral worker with responsibilities in Saint Andrews Cathedral 7pm church and Emmanuel Church in Luque. Also we remember in our prayers his wife **Caroline** (and baby Tommy) as her maternity leave concludes and she returns to work in Saint Andrews College.
- **Esperanza Home**, for **Teresa Maidana** in her responsibilities as Director, chief house mother **Juana**, with her team of helpers: **Ester, Carmen, Angela & Adriana**, as they prepare to resume work after the holiday break. 4 of the 5 children are due to return to their birth families. **Elba**, who arrived earlier this year, has already gone with four siblings to live with her grandmother. Siblings **Barbara** and **Victor**, who came in December 2008 having already been in a large children's home for a year, are due to go either to their birth mother or their aunt, and **Belen** has recently left to live with her grandmother who helps to care for Belen's unstable mother and another baby. **Alexis**, who is the remaining child, was legally declared "adoptable" but it is possible that there will be an appeal to this decision. It is most probable that new children will shortly be placed in the home.

Week Fri 15 – Thurs 21 Jan Team Work

We remember the example of Moses and the building of the sacred tent: *The LORD has given to Bezalel, Oholiab, and others the skills needed for building a place of worship, and they will follow the LORD's instructions. Then Moses brought together these workers who were eager to work.* Exodus 36:1+2

St Andrews Cathedral & Chapel: the 3 congregations on site enjoy fellowship and want to work together in greater unity. We pray for **Bishop Peter & Sally Bartlett, Rev Agustín & Teresa Maidana, Rev Ronald & Nicky Irene** and pastoral worker **Donald Brooks** as they minister in these congregations and work together as a team. We thank God for the church councils and pray for wisdom in the formation of a leadership team in the 7pm church.

Pray for **Bishop Andres & Estela Lopez** in Concepcion, as the church and children's clubs adjust to Claire Holmes return to the UK, asking for grace and strength as teams work together in the church and the clubs for God's glory. We pray for new members to be add to the church leadership team.

Pray for **Ed & Marie Brice** in their leadership in **St Matthews, Rio Verde**, as they plan for the team of visiting pastors, pastoral support and training for those who minister to children. Praise the Lord for the strengthening of contacts between the **Remansito** congregation and San Mateo Río Verde pray for wisdom in developing these links and for the need for people called to minister in the Chaco. We pray for **Feliciano Ortega** as he becomes part of the preaching team.

St Johns, Roque Alonso and the satellite congregations of **Mirador** and **Remansito** ask us to pray for their leaders as **Pastor Ceferino** approaches retirement. Please pray for the church council for unity and wisdom as they plan and mature in leadership, remembering **Alberto, Lida, Priscilla, Rene, Luis** and **Javier**.

We pray for the church council of **Emanuel Church** and **Donald Brooks** as they work together for the benefit of this congregation, and we pray for **Teo, Lidia, Pedro, Eugenia** and **Constanza** as they meet week by week with the children's group in San Lorenzo, thanking God for this team and their commitment to the families of San Lorenzo.

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. Henry Ford

Week Fri 22 – Thurs 28 Jan Wake Up from Your Sleep, from Ephesians 5 (The Message)

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything to us. Love like that. (Ephesians 5: 1 - 2)

Lord Jesus, we pray for your bride - the church, help us to keep company with you and to learn from you to live a life of love. By your Spirit, may the Anglican Church in Paraguay and the churches we are connected to, be places where love is given and received. Amen.

Don't allow love to turn into lust, setting off a downhill slide into sexual promiscuity, filthy practices, or bullying greed. Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect. (Ephesians 5: 3 - 4)

Lord Jesus, you are holy. We long for your church to be holy. We pray that you would start to make us holier – and please start with me. We pray that in our church communities thanksgiving would become part of our everyday speech. Help your church to mature and to give up gossip and ways of talking that displease you. Amen.

'You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them – the usual variations on idolatry – will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere in the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God. Don't let yourselves be taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him. Don't even hang round with people like that. (Ephesians 5: 5 – 7)

Lord Jesus, you taught your followers and disciples to relate to your Father. May the churches of Paraguay be full of people whose first aim in life is to please the Father and to put on one side all that is false and all forms of idolatry. Please start with me. Increase my desire for a closer relationship with you. Amen.

'You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true – these are actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it. Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are.' (Ephesians 5: 8 – 11)

Lord Jesus, please help church leaders in Paraguay as they teach others how to walk each day learning to please you. We pray for your people that we will be ready to learn and ready to change, ready to be all that you want us to be – lights shining as we follow the light of Christ. May our churches be beacons of light in our society. Amen.

*Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins,
Christ will show you the light!
So watch your step. Use your head.
Make the most of every chance you get.
These are desperate times! (Ephesians 5: 15 – 16)*

Lord Jesus, wake up from our spiritual sleep! We recognise that these times are desperate, so we ask you to fill your church with wisdom and light. We ask that godly decisions will be made, and opportunities to be recognised and taken. Amen.

Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants. Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything; any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5: 17 -20)

Lord Jesus, fill your church in Paraguay with the Holy Spirit. Help all who follow to drink of the Spirit. Holy Spirit teach us to fill our hearts with spiritual songs, help us to sing songs to God our Father in the name of Jesus our Master. Keep giving our church communities understanding of what please you, so that we may be and do what pleases you. Amen.

Week Fri 29 – Thurs 4 Feb Chaco Challenges

When you face the perils of weariness, carelessness, and confusion, don't pray for an easier life. Pray instead to be a stronger man or woman of God. Luis Palau

We pray for:

- **Pastor Teodoro**, as last year's drought left many communities without effective leadership as able bodied men moved away to look for work. The communities in Sombrero Pirí were particularly affected by this and since pastor Elvio was also away because of his work with the Ministry of Education, pastor Teodoro felt the load especially.
- that God will call and provide for some **pastoral helpers** to stay behind in their communities to be able to provide the necessary support to attend the Chaco families
- **Chris Hawksbee** as he encourages, teaches, exhorts Chaco communities in their seeking for sustainability
- the visit of Tito Le Haye and Brian Rennes of the **United Bible Societies** to update the software which the Bible translators use.
- **Pastor Lucio** and the ambitious plan to **combat alcohol abuse** in El Estribo and beyond. Pray that he will be able to unite the community to support this vision and especially the leaders.
- nurse **Beryl Baker** in her work in health care, that she herself will enjoy good health, wisdom and discernment as she works with the Ministry of Health, seeking to advance the well being of Chaco families.
- **Ed & Marie Brice**, as plans are moving ahead to build a place for **children to meet** on the new St Matthews site using the materials from the dismantling of the old St Matthews building.

God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven! Matthew 5:3

Week Fri 5 Feb – Thurs 11 Feb Financial Challenges

I am the LORD All-Powerful, and I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing. Malachi 3:10

Before we pray for others we pray for ourselves asking God to help as we consider the question:
How have I / can I establish a pattern of tithes and offerings in my life?

The Anglican Church in Paraguay thanks God for his faithfulness and the generosity of a **multitude of gifts** over many years. We pray for generous giving in Paraguayan churches enabling ministry to develop and mission to be implemented.

Many Paraguayan youth are looking for **opportunities for further studies**. We pray for all who are constrained by very limited financial resources and difficult family situations that opportunities will be made available to them. Especially we pray for Sonia wanting to finish her secondary education so that in the future she can train as a nurse and students Natalia and Alicia as they struggle to find the money for bus fares and texts.

We pray for **all marriages** for **good financial management** and a **generous spirit** remembering leaders Peter & Sally, Andres & Estela, Agripino & Nilda, Agustín & Teresa, Cefe & Ana, Ed & Marie, Elvio & Lorenza, Guillermo & Rosa, Juan & Lidia, Luis & Regina, Lucio & Priscila, Mario & Agustina, Niño Pepe & Feliciano, Mario & Rosa, Robert & Cristina, Romualdo & Yrna, Ronald & Nicky, Teodoro & Severiana, Donald & Caroline, Chris & Alison, Miriam & Miguel, Teodosio & Lidia, Feliciano y Rosa. We also pray for newly weds Sergio & Luisa, Neill & Deysi as they look for accommodation within their budgets.

We pray for the **Paraguayan Anglican churches** as they face many financial challenges including the employment of pastoral workers that new patterns of ministry will emerge and for a spirit of generosity be released.

We pray for CMS/SAMS, other mission agencies and churches which **support ministry in Paraguay** that they will be blessed with wisdom and creativity in all their fund raising efforts.

With grateful hearts we thank God for the provision of increasingly generous **health care in Paraguay** and pray that **the government of President Lugo** will be able to implement and fulfil the promises that it has made to the people of Paraguay.

Week Fri 12 – Thurs 18 Feb Education

Always set a good example for others. Be sincere and serious when you teach. Titus 2:7

- **St Andrews College** thank God for **Nelson** (currently involved in national teacher training) who joins the staff as a part time training consultant to develop staff potential. We are asked us to pray for the integration of new pupils, the development of the sports curriculum, the introduction of SMART boards and the staff training that the use of them will involve. We pray that the Lord's glory will increasingly be revealed in staff, pupils and parents, and especially **all new members of staff** including **Karen Caceres** and **Raquel Greco** (both are members of St Andrews 7pm).
- **St Andrews Annexe School**, we thank God for head teacher Victor Santa Cruz and his staff team, praying for wisdom, love, firmness and spiritual authority as they work with many pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds, praying especially that all new pupils will settle in quickly.
- We thank the Lord for the work of the **PEPE preschool** in Zeballos Cue, especially teacher **Gloria** (with her new baby) and helper Paola. As new children join the preschool we pray for good relationships between the church and the children's families.
- We pray for pastor **Luis Echeverria** as he completes his theological education and for his desire to prepare his thesis on the theme of the Presence of God. Grant him wisdom and spiritual perception as studies and leads the Zeballos Cue church.
- Dear Lord we pray for all Christian school staff and in particular **Alison Hawksbee & Tally** (of Asuncion Cristian Academy), all St Andrews staff, including head teacher **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy head **Mags Southern**, teachers **Babs Owen, Sue Nagaitis, Nicky Irene & Caroline Brooks, Linn Tedman** (librarian), **Miriam Greco** (school administrator), **Regina Echeverria** (in the school bookshop) and English volunteer **Lara**, for creativity, wisdom, energy, authority, knowledge and love for their pupils. Amen.
- **FEISA**: please accompany us in prayer that God will bring us the students who will be part of our institution in 2010 in both the first year of Teacher Training and the fourth year of the Degree course, that He will provide the teachers we need and that we will work together in a team united in one Spirit and that He will continue to sustain us economically. Amen.
- We pray for **Noemi Coleman** of **FEISA** and her team of volunteers as the **Mobile Toy Library** starts to accept bookings for 2010 that many children, teachers and parents will benefit from the opportunities that the Toy Library offers for helping children in their educational, social and emotional development.

As we pray for each of these situations we pray for a spirit of excellence to pervade all that is done both in word and in deeds, asking God to help the striving for excellence.

Week Fri 19 – Thurs 25 Feb Discipleship

Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee, "Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't even pour olive oil on my head, but she has poured expensive perfume on my feet. So I tell you that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love." Luke 7:44-47

Lord, we pray for **Caroline Gilmour - White** as she manages the Diocesan library thankful for all that this offers in terms of discipleship and good quality Christian reading material. We pray for an increasing desire to read literature and to learn your ways.

Lord Jesus we pray for the groups which are being set up to participate in the **Growing in Spiritual Maturity** course, asking God for wisdom and energy for **Bishop Peter & Sally Bartlett**.

In our prayers this week we remember the ladies doing **Marie Brice's literacy classes**, and ask that they will practice during the vacation period and reintegrate well when they return to classes.

St Andrews Cathedral ask us to pray for the **new prayer groups** which have been formed, that more men will chose to join these groups. We pray for God to raise up men of good testimony, full of the Holy Spirit as workers in the Anglican Church in Paraguay. They also ask us to pray for God to give us new spiritual hearts which are attentive and obedient to the Bible, and that the miracle of this change of heart will be seen by many who will glorify God.

We pray for the follow up of **new contacts** made during November in Rio Verde and the beginning of Bible Studies and Abundant Life courses with them.

We pray for **Ed Brice** as he prepares for the next **Chaco Bible School** asking for creativity in ideas and wisdom as a new model of carrying out the encounters is developed.

*The Pharisees were religious whereas Christ is spiritual,
in our following of Jesus we seek to relate to Jesus, becoming more spiritual and less religious.*

Week Fri 26 – Sun 28 Feb On the Lord's side

‘...I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.’ Abraham Lincoln

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. Galatians 5:13-14

For many taking part in a study group or mission event can be a life changing experience so we pray for **Anglican Marriage Encounter, EJE Youth Encounter, Mission Paraguay** and **Faith Comes by Hearing** asking God to

- guide the planning
- give vision and the ability to be culturally and socially relevant
- open a way for all who will benefit from these ministries to participate
- make his love the signature of each of these ministries

Miriam Greco asks us to join Christians in Paraguay in thanking God for the **spiritual awakening** of our beloved Paraguay. ‘Thank you my God for this is the work of your loving hands!’

+Peter & Sally Bartlett

on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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