

Paraguay Prayer Calendar July & August 2010

Week Thurs 1 – Weds 7 - Joyful thanksgiving to God our protector

Psalm 95 The Venite verses 1-3 *O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

Chaco Bible Week '**Christians and Politics**': please pray for Pastors Ed Brice, Agustín Maidana and the Chaco pastors and pastoral assistants.

We thank God:

- with pastor Mario, Gilberto, and the Dos Palmas church for the return of the **Spirit of unity and joy**
- with **the La Puerta** and the 5 men with a personal history of addiction who are now **walking in freedom**
- with **FEISA** that this semester's classes have gone well and for God's faithfulness
- with St John's church for **Rev Lucho Robles** now working part time in pastoral work in the church
- with Francisca and Raquel's in their success in completing the **literacy class** which Marie Brice is teaching, and praying for Cipriana, Mariana, Carmen and Negrita who are working enthusiastically towards their certificates and for Don Antonio's steady progress. Also thanking God that some of those on the literacy programme are bringing along family members to the St Matthew's church
- with Chris Hawksbee for the beehives given 2 apiece to **bee keepers** in the Chaco, some already complete with bees, and praying for the hives that will be loaded in July and August when the trees start flowering and the bees are active
- with Tim Curtis & the translation team that the major checks of **the book of Psalms** are now completed and we are thankful for successful meetings between the team and Enxet school teachers
- with Beryl Baker for many answered prayers, especially for **His faithfulness to Tomasa & Miguel**, during this time of severe ill health, and giving thanks for their daughter and son in law Graciela & Silvino in their enthusiasm for their studies of the Bible
- with St Andrew's College for the recent **spiritual retreat** for staff and all that God is doing in the lives of many of the school personnel
- with Agustín Maidana & Ronald Irene for the **music group in the Cathedral congregation**, giving thanks for the young people who have become involved in leading worship and praying that this will continue to develop
- **VIVE youth club**'s recent weekend camp, thanking God for the leaders and teenagers

The Shorter Westminster Catechism asks us '*What is the chief end of man (& woman & child)?*'

We answer: '*Our chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever*'
and we gratefully accept God's help and guiding, as we seek to do this.

Thurs 8 – Weds 14 July - Imitating Christ

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. John 7:17

In our imitation of Christ **doing** his will takes precedence over simply hearing. First the disciples watched Jesus minister, next they were included, Jesus took Peter, James and John into the room with Jairus' daughter, then they were encouraged to go and do likewise (Luke 10, Jesus sent out the 72 with power and authority).

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing me to follow you. Help me to choose to watch, learn, be included and be sent out in your mission. I also pray for others this week as they too imitate you.

Please pray for

- **+Peter Bartlett & +Andres Rodríguez**; pastors **Agustin Maidana, Ed Brice, Elvio Cabañas, Juan Sosa, Lucio Romero, Luis Echeverría, Mario Caballero, Robert Fernández & Teodoro Campestequi**; deacons **Agripino Cerro, Ronald Irene, Mario Recalde, Niño Pepe Agüero & Romualdo Rojas**, pastoral workers **Donald Brooks & Lucho Robles**, and all lay leaders as they disciple those under their pastoral care.
- Saturday 10th July **United Youth Service** in King of kings, Remansito, that God will grant wisdom to Luis Cabañas, David Greco, Charlie Mendez and Raquel Greco as they lead this event, that this evening will be significant in the lives of those who attend, enabling the Anglican youth to grow together as Christians
- **Drs Richard & Jean Forde**, visiting theologians from NY state, and Pablo Molina from Bolivia that their visit will be fruitful and that their teaching will equip leaders in the Diocese
- **Mission Paraguay**, for David Orritt, and volunteers, John & Christine D, John & Sue R, Francis and Jude, as they arrive in Asunción that they will travel safely, for freedom from accidents and good health and for happy relationships which reflect God's love for all those that they will be with and for all that they will be doing. Mission Paraguay volunteer work in July starts with an important meeting on the 14th involving important decisions and firming up this year's projects. The pound exchange rate is very low here in Paraguay.
- Agustin Maidana, Donald Brooks, Ed Brice, Luis Echeverría, Lucho Robles, Ronald Irene, Teo Rivas along with Bishop Peter and Sally Bartlett, taking part in the **Growing in Maturity** course that each of them will be enabled to grow in Christ in greater measure and encourage others in their personal spiritual growth.
- Remembering the **crucial role of the Scriptures** in imitating Christ please pray for Tim Curtis, Juan, Martin and Asunción currently checking Martin's draft of Jeremiah in the next few months and dealing with some small number of issues related to spelling. Also ask for protection for the PC equipment and programmes, and spiritual protection for the translators and their families, Asunción and Cipriana, Juan and Negrita, Martin and Mariana and also for the caretaker Nelson and Carmen.
- **Sharon McCririe, Hector & Dilia** and **La Puerta** that as the counsellor prepares to return to Colombia in December the Lord would give wisdom and concerning how to minister to those with addictions and that Jesus would send workers for this harvest
- Remembering the role of discipleship in our imitation of Christ, we pray for wisdom for Caroline Gilmour White as she runs the **Diocesan Library** and pray that as books are read, obedience to Christ will increase.

Week Thurs 15 – Weds 21 July - Paraguay, God's creation

In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. Psalm 95:4-5

On the 18th July Paraguayans vote in the local government elections. Please pray for Paraguay during this important time and for **Pastor Cefe Romero**, as he stands as a local government councillor in Mariano Roque Alonso, Cefe is very well known in Roque Alonso and his election would be the first time a pastor has been elected as a councillor.

Using the words of the psalmist in Psalm 74 we pray for Paraguay:

But you, O God, are my king from of old; you bring salvation upon the earth. (verse 12)

Creator God, we pray for an increase in mission in your church in Paraguay, especially in the Diocese of Paraguay. We pray for Mission Paraguay and pray that your long term purposes will be fulfilled through the decisions taken and that eternal fruit will result through men, women and children in Paraguay coming to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ. Amen.

It was you who opened up springs and streams; you dried up the ever flowing rivers (verse 15).

Creator God, we thank you for the beauty of your creation. Thank you for the flora and fauna of Paraguay, for the diversity of ecosystems in Paraguay, for rivers and lagoons, fields and ranches, forests and orchards. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed at the complicated environmental challenges which our nations face. Help us to respond in practical ways in our daily lives and to set an example that others may follow. Amen.

Creator God we thank you for all **Paraguay's natural resources** and that Paraguay is making funds available, from the sale of electricity to Brazil, for social investment and we ask you to guide those who oversee the designation and distribution of these funds that justice may be done in favour of those who most need to receive help. Amen.

Creator God, we thank you for the **rain** that has fallen in the Chaco and pray for more rain. We pray for and Chris Hawksbee as he and some Chaco communities are pushing for **cattle production** projects to make use of the grass that is available which, usually goes to waste or gets burnt off. We also pray for the plans to strengthen the beekeeping enterprises. Amen.

The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the sun and moon. It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. (verses 16 -17)

Creator God we pray for Caroline Gilmore and all those who are taking part in the Mission Paraguay **sewing projects** in the Redeemer Church, Zeballos Cue and St Andrews Cathedral. We pray that those who desire to take part will be able to find time in busy lives. We pray that the participants will develop and continue to use their creative gifts and that creativity will be released in unexpected ways and places. Amen.

Creator God, we pray for Paraguay in times of **rapid social change** in the nations, we also pray for ourselves, your creation as we struggle to find balance, desiring to please you the Lord of day and night that you will enable to use our days wisely and you will teach us to rest well. We pray for the Chaco regions facing **climate changes** that often severely affect the everyday lives of the people. We pray that there might be some unseasonal rain this winter in the Chaco communities of Makxawayá, Rio Verde, El Estribo, Sombrero Piri / La Herencia, and La Patria. Amen.

Have regard for your covenant, because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land. (verse 20)

Creator God, thank you that the peoples of Paraguay are your creation and made in your image. We ask you to pour out your Spirit on Paraguay and that many may turn to you. We thank you for the covenant that you have made with your people in Paraguay and pray that your church in this nation will grow in understanding of your covenant, and lead godly lives. We pray for all in authority in this land and ask for your healing for those whose lives have been touched by violence. Amen.

Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name (verse 21).

Creator God, we thank you for Chris Hawksbee's work with the **NGO Global Chaco** which is looking into how they could continue to assist Chaco communities on a longer term basis. We pray that well being and blessing would be given abundantly to the Chaco communities and we ask you to give Chris wisdom. Amen.

I Am the Origin, King of Creation
I'm the Lord of all tribes, all tongues and all nations.
My voice is like thunder, my eyes are like coals;
I am the Maker and Saviour of souls.
by Belinda van Rensburg, a teacher at St Andrews School

Week Thurs 22 – Weds 28 July - God watches over his people

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:6-7

Lord, we pray for all who lead public worship in the Anglican Church, we pray for service leaders, musicians, singers, those who read the scriptures, those who lead prayers and those who preach. We thank you for each one of these people, their gifts and their relationship with God. We pray for them as they lead us in worship and pray that in our hearts we will have an attitude of worship, bowing down and kneeling before our Maker. Please help them, as they guide us in worship. Amen.

Lord, we pray for all those whose faith is being challenged and for those who have lost contact with you. We pray that their relationship with you will be renewed and restored.

Lord, we pray for all who have left your church over the years, that you will help them keep faith alive and that when they desire to return, you will open our hearts to receive them with kindness and acceptance.

Lord, we pray for our leaders and their families that they would continue to learn from you as you watch over them and care for them, and that they may imitate you as they exercise pastoral oversight of others.

Lord, we pray for a family in the Chaco who left the church a long time ago. We pray for their protection as they struggle to deal with domestic violence, that the perpetrator of violence will begin to take responsibility for his actions and that others would be enabled to put healthier boundaries in place.

Lord, we pray for your people in the city of Concepcion, thanking you for Bishop Andres & Estela and their leadership. We pray that you will watch over your people in Concepcion, granting security and safety in the streets of Concepcion. We pray for the Mission Paraguay volunteers as they work alongside the Anglican Church in Concepcion for spiritual fruit and enjoyment of the projects by all involved.

Lord, we pray for all the children's clubs that meet across the Diocese and pray that every child will grow in self esteem, be protected and watched over.

Week Thurs 29 July – Sat 4 August - Praying for leaders in rebellious days

To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest. Psalm 95:7b-11

As Paraguay celebrates Friendship Day on 30th July, we remember the man Moses, to whom God spoke face to face as a friend, saying 'I know you by name and you have found favour with Me.' Exodus 33:12. We remember how Moses' parents placed him in the basket in faith and how God took care of his life. God called him to lead His people, and we remember just how rebellious the people were. We pray for our church leaders as they lead your people, that they would be given wisdom and strength, and that they would lead under your anointing and authority.

Please pray for all God's people that we would know God and be kept safe from going astray in our hearts and we pray that those in leadership will be granted God's favour before those they serve, praying for:

- **St Paul's Church, and the outreach groups**, Bishop Andrés and his wife Estela
- **Saint Andrews Cathedral**, morning, 7pm & St Andrews Chapel, for Bishop Peter, Pastors Agustin and Ronald, and pastoral worker Donald, their wives Sally, Teresa, Nicky and Caroline, for those in leadership groups Adriana, Miguel, Soledad, Ema, David, Julio, Rolando, Charlie, Sally, Coto, Jennifer, Babs, Toshie
- **St John's, Mirador & King of kings**: pastoral worker Lucho Robles, his wife Estela, church council members, Alberto, Lida, Priscilla, Rene, Luis, Javier
- **Emanuel Church**, pastoral worker Donald and church council members, Cristina, Adriano, Sara, Lidia, Timo
- **Saint Paul's Church Concepcion**, Bishop Andres and his wife Estela
- **Redeemer Church**, pastor Luis and his wife Regina

Please pray for the Church in the Chaco, especially for church leaders in their relationships with community leaders that together they would work together to benefit the wider community

- **Rivers of Living Water**, pastor Teodoro and his wife Severiana
- **Spring of Eternal Life**, pastor Elvio and Lorenza
- **St Matthews**, pastor Ed and his wife Marie
- **Rock of Peace**, pastor Lucio and his wife Priscila
- **San Fernandez**, pastor Robert and his wife Cristina
- **Encounter with God**, pastor Mario and his wife Rosa
- **St Peters**, pastor Juan and his wife Alicia, deacon Romualdo and his wife Yrna
- **La Leona**, deacon Agripino and his wife Nilda
- **La Paciencia**, deacon Niño Pepe and his wife Feliciana
- **Colonia 24**, deacon Mario and his wife Agustina
- **and the many smaller Chaco churches**

We pray for those who lead in Christian schools in Paraguay, St Andrews College director, Gwen Carlisle, deputy Mags Southern, Annexe School Head, Victor Santa Cruz, deputy Mirta Moyano, and consultant Nelson Aguilera as he accompanies St Andrews School through time of change as the school seeks to adapt to, and meet the challenges that guiding young people involves these days. We pray to for good discipline in these schools, and that the young people will receive formation that equips them to face the challenges of life.

Lord we offer up prayer for all government and civic authorities in Paraguay, as they lead the country at this time. We offer up prayers for all those who were recently elected in the municipal elections. May we be governed in ways that lead to peace and well-being. Amen.

We pray for all teachers and school staff known to us, that they would offer firm leadership, clear boundaries and loving care to the children and young people who they work with, especially remembering Anglican worshippers: ACA staff: Alison H, Tally and Sam, 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, Sue N, and English Assistant Ruth Thompson and chaplain Ronald Irene. Lord, grant them the necessary skills to guide the young.

Week Thurs 5 – Weds 11 August - Hoping in God

On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:10,11

Testimony: A year ago an Asunción school leaver was full of doubts that their dream to study at the university could become reality. Today this young person is studying and working. Thank you, for showing your favour to your child and enabling that young person to hope in you. Thank you Lord, for and for your faithfulness in providing a job to generate finances for their studies. Amen.

Take a few moments to thank God for the favour that he has so generously bestowed on your life.

We thank God for the lives of the **2nd Mission Paraguay team**, David Orritt, Jude, Ken, Mike, Anna, Susan and Jenny and ask you to take care of them as they place their hope in your plans. We pray for them that you will keep them safe and show your gracious favour to them and bless them and all the relationships that they will make, all that they will do during their time in Paraguay. Amen.

Please pray for the **La Puerta** ministry with addicts mainly from the Chacarita neighbourhood that God would continue to deliver many lives from the darkness of drugs.

Please pray for the couples who took part in the last **EMA Marriage Encounter** that they will continue to trust in God and build solid marriages.

Please pray for those who are in **desperate situations**, in the knowledge that without a miracle from God life will continue to be a dark, remembering, L & G, M & M, and any others you know who are in a time of great trial. Praying for hope to be placed in God and thanking God for his mercy, love and grace.

Please pray for the **young man P**, who recently left Paraguay, thanking God for giving Beryl Baker the opportunity to talk with P about the Lord, praying that P will seek God, place his hope in God and be guided about the future.

Please pray for the young man **Jeremias**, who is responsible for his orphaned brothers and sisters. Pray that Jeremias will place his hope in God, and pray for his brother who has recently been released from the psychiatric hospital in Asuncion and is trying to stay off drugs. Pray for the younger members of the family living with grandma in a neighbourhood where drugs are readily available. Pray that miracles of hope will happen in this family.

Please pray for the **family of Miguel Angel**, who died in an accident, that hope would be born in their hearts.

Please pray for the **young people** from the last EJE Youth Encounter that they would place their hope in God.

Faith isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future.

It's simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step.

- Joni Erickson Tada

Week Thurs 12 – Weds 18 August - Children

Psalm 78: 4 – 7 *we will tell the next generation, the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done...so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.*

We thank God for teacher Eduvigis de Salazaar who has recently finished the SEAN Abundant Life course and that he has received the finance to work as the teacher in the indigenous community of **Tajamar Cabaju** where all the pupils have received an illustrated copy of the New Testament.

This weekend please pray for the Mennonite **prayer vigil**, as Christians many denominations from all over Asunción and greater Asunción meet together to pray.

16th August is **Children's Day** in Paraguay. We thank God for the improvement in government health provision which is positively affecting the health of Paraguayan children. We pray for God's blessings for all children in Paraguay, that there would be an increase in education opportunities, greater family stability and for Christian values to be taught and embraced.

Noemi Coleman, from FEISA encourages us to: give thanks to God for our families, for health we are given, and please pray for the many **children who live in poverty**, especially during the colder weather, that God in his mercy will keep them safe and protect them from illness.

Marie Brice, asks us to pray for: St Matthews Church in Rio Verde, for **two workers for children & adolescents**, people who are called, have commitment and vision. And that a **patio area can be roofed** over so that there is more space for children's and young people's activities.

Agustín and Teresa Maidana ask us to pray for the **Chacarita children's club**, on Saturday mornings which the children enjoy attending. Please pray for sufficient helpers and for resources, and pray for all who help with the club and for the children, that God's love will be shared.

Tim Curtis asks us to pray for the **Enxet young people** would be encouraged to read the New Testament in their language and for ways to improve their reading skills.

Victor Santa Cruz, head of the **Annexe school** asks us to pray for all teaching staff and the parents group as they seek to work together for the benefit of the pupils.

Teresa Maidana asks us to pray for the **Esperanza foster home** remembering all the children who have passed through this home that they will be nourished, cared for, equipped for the future and protected by God, so that in the future these young ones may fulfil their God given destiny.

Sally Bartlett asks us to pray for all the **children's clubs & Sunday schools** in the Paraguayan Anglican churches that children will be encouraged in faith, accepted and nurtured with love, and that leaders will be given the love, creativity and skills necessary to guide these young lives. Please pray for those who coordinate these clubs and activities that they will be encouraged in the Lord.

Father, help us to grasp the truth that without prayer there is no power.

Help us to avoid the barrenness of busyness, and to find the fruitfulness that comes alone through prayer.

Week Thurs 19 – Weds 25 August - Individuals, God's personal choice

But for now, dear servant Jacob, listen— yes, you, Israel, my personal choice. God who made you has something to say to you; the God who formed you in the womb wants to help you. Don't be afraid, dear servant Jacob, Jeshurun, the one I chose. For I will pour water on the thirsty ground and send streams coursing through the parched earth. I will pour my Spirit into your descendants and my blessing on your children. They shall sprout like grass on the prairie, like willows alongside creeks. This one will say, 'I am God's,' and another will go by the name Jacob; That one will write on his hand 'God's property'— and be proud to be called Israel. Isaiah 44: 1 - 5

Please pray for the following individuals and for any others you would like God to bless:

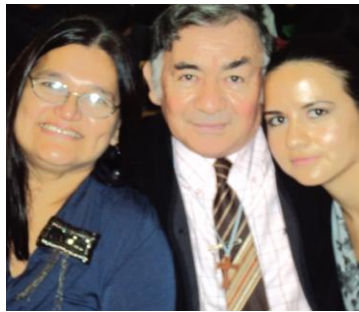
- Tomasa and her husband Miguel, that they may receive Jesus and decide to follow him and that Jesus' healing hands would bless Tomasa
- Giovanni, Linn Tedman's library assistant, that he will be blessed in this new job and quickly make friends in the school community, and know how to handle older students who can sometimes challenge the authority of new or young staff members
- A group of mothers, of students in St Andrews College, who desire to pray together and study the Bible
- Zuni and Don Antonio studying the Bible so that they will be able to teach others

- FEISA early years students that they would be given wisdom, be well organised, quick learners and do well in their studies and exams
- Settling back in to life in the UK, Lara Bordeaux carrying on with her studies at Manchester University and Rachel Rudman, as she starts an MA in Social Work at Edinburgh University
- Pastor Elvio combining his role with the Ministry of Education and his oversight of the Enxet church in Yatnata. For local people to take the services when Elvio is away. For safety as he visits different indigenous communities.
- Those who are sympathetic to Christ's message, but who have not yet decided to follow Jesus

Week Thurs 26 – Tues 31 August - Created in God's image and named by God



Agustin & Lucho, Members
Towards Maturity Course



Ana, Cefe & daughter Noemí
Pastor Cefe's retirement



VIVE group meeting



St Andrews English teachers
Rachel, Sue and Lara

Each one of us carries within us the image of God and so God is pleased to see us his children honouring his image in those we live with, work with, meet with, and all those who cross our paths. *So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them.* (Genesis 1:27) Each one of us has a name and when our name is honoured we are blessed and favoured because our name represents us. *I, the LORD, created you...don't be afraid. I have rescued you. I have called you by name; now you belong to me.* (Isaiah 43:1) God records our names as we honour Him and records our honouring of Him. *Then those who honoured the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened and heard them. The names of those who honoured the LORD and respected him were written in his presence in a book to be remembered.* (Malachi 3: 16).

Some ideas that you might like to try:

- Make a list of God's names
- Thank God for knowing you by name and calling you by name
- speak out, magnify, praise, confess, declare, remember, bless, call upon God's name
- go back through the Prayer Calendar and pick three people and pray for them each day this week
- choose to honour others in the way you speak about them
- every time you see a name written this week, ask God to bless that person

Thank you for your prayers for the Anglican Church in Paraguay,

+ Peter & Sally Bartlett,

on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

Iglesia Anglicana Paraguaya, Casilla de Correos 1124, Asunción, Paraguay, South America

peterparaguay@gmail.com saritabartlett@hotmail.co.uk Skype: pjhbartlett