

# Caroline's News

## The Anglican Diocese of Paraguay

### December 2009



South American Mission Society

In Paraguay the natural world is included in the crib scene to celebrate God's coming to earth. The crib scene is surrounded by seasonal fruits such as pineapples, melons, watermelons and coconut palm flowers. Paraguayan cheese bread, chipa, is hung from the top of the manger and children's toys are arranged round it. The manger is empty when the children go to bed on Christmas Eve but when they wake in the morning, Jesus is there.

**News of an exciting event:** the sewing workshop planned for mid November was cancelled because the government trainers were called away at the last minute. We'll try again in March. Instead of sewing, we planned a longed-for visit to the diocesan retreat centre built by Mission Paraguay volunteers in 2007. It's 40km outside the city and takes a lot of organization to get everybody there.

**35-40 young people (Mobile Library readers) will have an overnight camp on 5-6th December.** This is a first – a trial run for more next year

#### Please pray for:

- ✚ the leaders and speakers in their preparation
- ✚ a time of fellowship and spiritual growth. Training for spiritual maturity and leadership is key for the church's future
- ✚ the right weather – activities are mainly outdoors. We've had temperatures of nearly 40° and high humidity for weeks

SAMS are joining forces soon with CMS, the Church Mission Society. Here is an initiative raising support for all of us SAMS people transferring to the new joint enterprise. From 9-22 May 2010, CMS/SAMS is organizing a national 13-city sponsored cycle tour called Revolution. Starting in Hull and finishing in Oxford, cyclists from across the UK will be raising money for CMS and SAMS mission. If you would like to join in for a day, a week or the full ride and raise funds for myself/ourselves and my/our work, contact Chris on [cycletour@cms-uk.org](mailto:cycletour@cms-uk.org) or 01865 787517. You can also speak to Chris about organizing your own local challenge or event.

I am home on leave from 10<sup>th</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> March and look forward to seeing and hearing from many of you. My contact address is below. Thank you so very much for your support through letters, emails and financially this year. I'm so grateful and blessed to be in Paraguay where we can be God's instruments making things happen for the poor and marginalized.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, whatever the circumstances. Romans 15.13

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Postal prayer letters are sent by Jude Smith, 38 Wynds Point, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2EF.

