

# PRAYER LETTER FROM CLAIRE

Dear Praying Friends,

I hope you're well. It's hard to believe that it is nearly Easter. Autumn has arrived here but the temperatures are still mid to high 30's most days in Concepcion. We are hoping it will cool down soon.

groups full of enthusiasm. Each of them and the youth received a Bible at the end of the year and we are encouraging them to read it at home and to bring it to the meetings.

As most of you know the church is in a time of change as Bishop Andres retires as pastor of the church in May. In the short term anyway the church won't have a pastor. The idea is that the church council will be responsible for the ministry of the church. This Saturday 12th April is a very important day for the church as it is the church assembly. We will be appointing the new church council for the year ahead and possibly someone to be a figurehead in Concepcion. The church is having extra prayer this week and a 24 hour chain of prayer on Friday and Saturday (feel free to join in.). Please pray for wisdom, direction, courage and God's choice.



As many of you know the church, the pastor's house, my house and accommodation for visitors are all on the same site. Short term it will be myself and Estela's sister - Melva living here, but longer term we need a family on site. We are praying for that too as there is a lot involved with living on site - hospitality, upkeep, people coming for prayer, or while passing through Concepcion from the annexes etc. Thank you for your prayers.

Please pray too for Norma and Saul who are responsible for the Indian shelter. They do a great job. The Indians can spend a few days there while passing through from the Chaco - to buy and sell things, for hospital appointments and so on. For things like sickness they can stay longer. They have recently had a lot of people there for longer periods of time. One pregnant lady was there for several months while her husband was in Asunción with their other child who was sick.



Everything has settled back here after the Summer holidays. We had some youth camps in the holidays (January) which went well and encouraged the young people. Many of them have lots of challenges at home and at school so they need a lot of support. A lot of them are starting to come to the Chaco and Horqueta to help out when we go there on Sundays to work with children, youth and adults. It's great to see them using their gifts of music, sports, teaching etc. some of the youth were so touched and challenged by the living conditions of the Indians in the Chaco that they headed out themselves to collect clothes to take there.

The children are back to the different



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*It means so much to the Indians to have this safe place and we thank God too for the support which comes for this work.*

*In the same place as the Indian shelter - Inmaculada, an area with many challenges such as being renowned for drug dealing there is a good steady group of children and young people growing up for which we are thankful.*



*take to the Chaco. We are also delighted with the opportunity next week to go to a local school to teach the Easter story. The mum of a girl who comes to the youth group asked us.*

*Speaking of stories in July Bryan Thompson from Ireland is going to come to train us in a Bible course called 'Simply the Story.' I have done it myself*

*and found it absolutely brilliant. We trust and pray that it really open people's eyes to the Bible and train us to better share God's Story with others.*

*Thank you for all your prayers for Eladio and also Jose. Thankfully Jose is out of prison. Although I haven't seen much of*

*him his mum says he is recovering from his ordeal.*

*Sadly Eladio's brain tumour is back and growing really quickly. We continue to pray for him.*

*Finally I wanted to ask you to pray for a teenager who has been kidnapped. His name is Arlan Fick. (pictured right) I don't know him but have heard a lot about him over the past week. There is a terrorist organisation called the EPP who operate in the country areas. They robbed a country farm last week. The police arrived and shot dead several of their band. The EPP also shot dead a police officer, some people who worked at the farm, and they headed off with the young lad. They say though that there seem to be signs that he continues with life.*

*Thank you so much for all your continued love and support and prayers.*

*God Bless.*

**Claire**

*Wishing you all a joyous Easter*

*Celebration*

*"But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said." Matthew 28:5 - 6.*

