

Link Letter No.11 September 2014

Dear friends,

The last few months in figures look like this:

50 years since the first land claims were launched in relation to tribal lands shared by five ethnic groups covering 632,000 hectares.

1 joint title granted to 71 indigenous communities covering 400,000 hectares of land. The remaining 230,000 go to a condominium of over 200 white settler families.

5 Wichi in prison following a dispute over land. They challenged a white settler who was fencing what they understood to belong to their community, and were reported to the police by him, with the resulting arrest.



Deforestation



Catherine and Nick Drayson

CMS mission partners

Argentina

Nick and Catherine Drayson are working with indigenous peoples, largely based in the Chaco Forest (roughly the size of France) in the north of the country. Nick is the Diocesan Bishop of Northern Argentina and teaches the leaders of the indigenous churches through visiting and conferences, and Catherine is an occupational therapist and runs women's and family conferences.

132,000 hectares of land destined to be deforested in Salta province according to permits granted illegally in 2013. This figure has already been surpassed in 2014. A growing concern about this from many groups, including churches, has temporarily halted this, but big money is involved.

Those most affected are the Amerindian and white settler communities who live there.

Bulldozers were recently stopped by a

group of protesters in Cuchuy.

350 the maximum parts per million of CO2 in the earth's atmosphere before the earth becomes overheated (420 is the present estimate). Stopping deforestation is only one way to reduce the carbon emissions.

20 ecobishops from around the world trying to address climate change. Nick has been invited to form part of a group of church leaders meeting in South Africa early next year. We hope



Seminar on Climate Change

theological reinforcement will help governments to make right decisions at their summits.

250 people confirmed as new members of our churches. Three new churches opened. Registered churches now number 150.

100 years since the foundation of the first mission in the Chaco: Misión Chaqueña.

80 the age of many of the Indian

leaders, including the leader of the rural church council. Whilst there is great respect for age in Amerindian cultures, the changes in society are rapid and young leaders are needed.

60 new young leaders training in the indigenous church. Despite economic difficulties we have been able to hold another two-week seminary in Juarez.

3 the urban pastors under the age of 60. The city churches have many youth, but few as yet are being called into leadership.



The Centenary celebrations



Women praying



Older and younger pastors

with women's groups who will soon form part of AMARE (the Argentine branch of Mothers' Union). Catherine travels to the UK in October to share at a conference of leaders of this organisation.

2 months that Stefi was in Argentina, including her 21st

10,000 kilometres

that our new truck has already done. We are so grateful to all those who gave towards the purchase of replacement transport which enables us to keep visiting remote communities

2 meetings of Pastoral

Familiar, and many meetings



With our new truck



Theatre workshop

birthday. The long summer vacation meant she could be with us for our winter and take part in various activities, including running some theatre workshops.

1037 steps up the

gherkin (in London) that Sam and Sally climbed for charity.

Other family members ran seven



Catherine with a young woman leader

- For new and young leaders to emerge in both rural and urban churches.
- For discipleship to be furthered by family and women's initiatives in our churches.
- For ourselves and our family in our walk with God.

Thank you for your prayers for forest, faith and family.

With love and thanks,

Nick and Catherine

marathons in seven days!

Prayer points:

Forest, Faith and Family:

- For just decisions at all levels in relation to land disputes that will lead to peaceful relations between the different groups that live in the forest.
- For a halt to illegal deforestation.
- For the church to define clear action in matters of social justice and Creation Care.



Women of the diocese

PS. Did you know that you can now receive link letters by email, sent as a pdf? If you would like to receive them this way and help CMS save money, please contact **the links team** at links@cms-uk.org

www.cms-uk.org



Church Mission Society

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