



BUENA·VISTA

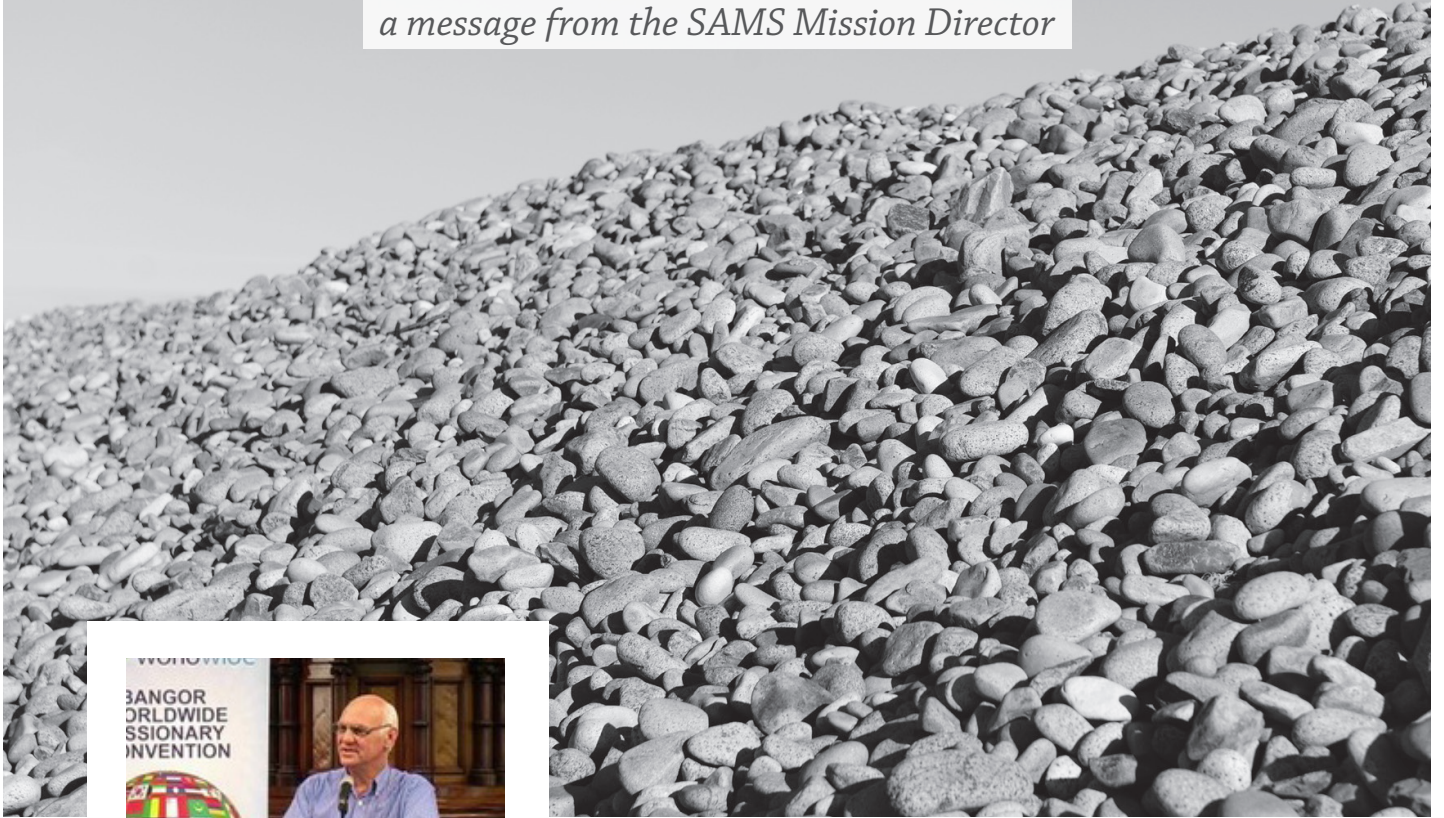
WINTER EDITION 2015



MISSIONAL ○ RELATIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL

— When small stones move, — landslides happen

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



Recently Committee Room 15 in the House of Commons was packed with parliamentarians. They listened to a remarkable lady share about her faith and her time in a Labour Camp in North Korea. Many prisoners were tortured and beaten. The guards told them that they were not human beings. They were just animals. Prisoners were so hungry they were reduced to eating

rats, snakes or even searching for grains in cow dung. M.P's were shocked at what they heard. This unknown Christian had made a huge impact through the reality of her faith, her faithful endurance and her courageous witness. At the end of the meeting Lord Alton ended with a challenge...

*"When small stones move,
landslides happen!"*

The story of Christian mission is the story of small stones moving and small seeds being planted. The outcome again and again has been that landslides happen. Opposition, persecution, personal sacrifices, imprisonment and even death have not stopped the advance of God's Kingdom. Praise Him!

In the mid-19th Century small stones moved when Captain Allen Gardiner went to South America. He and his friends died of starvation on a beach in one of the remotest parts of the earth. They hoped to reach indigenous Indians but they didn't reach anyone for Christ. Yet out of those small stones moving, landslides of mission happened in South America.

"out of those small stones moving, landslides of mission happened in South America."

Last November Helen and I had the privilege of visiting Chile and Argentina. During one weekend Helen spoke with

the wives of younger leaders and on the Sunday morning I preached 3 times in La Trinidad, Las Condes, Santiago. That month the church was celebrating its 30th Anniversary. Other churches have been planted out of La Trinidad and many leaders have been sent out. A new balcony has just been built to accommodate the increasing numbers. The ministry of Alf Cooper continues to be a massive blessing.

How did that church start? It started through a missionary couple, Gordon and Beryl Whitehead. Potential has been realised. Growth has happened. The small stones of missionary witness have led to a spiritual landslide.

May 2015 be another year of Kingdom advance and faithful courageous service. Thank you for your ongoing generous and prayerful support of SAMS!

Bishop Ken Clarke

LOST & FOUND

Written by Andy Roberts who works with
ReVive in Brazil



NUMBERS THAT MUST CHANGE:

500,000

children involved in Brazilian sex
industry

10

average age at which a child
forced into prostitution has her first
sexual encounter

8

every eight minutes a child or
teenager is raped in Brazil

27,300,000

the average number of teenagers
and children living in poverty and
at risk in Brazil

ReVive is a Christian organisation working with young girls in the North East of Brazil who have been forced into prostitution or who have suffered abuse from within the home. ReVive aims to free them from their situation; restoring their lives and renewing hope within them for the future.

Recently one of the ReVive girls ran away from school. We knew that she was having some problems there - she had complained of other pupils teasing her about living in a 'home' and not having a 'real' family.

This girl was abandoned and rejected by her biological family when she was just five years old (her Mum was jailed for abusing her)... she has since lived in various government homes and is now 13. We found her on the streets in March after she'd ran away from one of the government homes.



So, we were really upset when she ran away from school after the kids had told her that she'd never be adopted now that she's 13 years old. Our team spent hours searching the streets and the beach for any sign of her but she was no where to be seen.

After a few days she sent some messages to our team via Facebook saying sorry etc and that she just wanted to find a family. She sent me a picture of a little girl holding a sign which said 'Find Me' in English... I'm pretty sure she didn't know what it meant but I didn't need a second invitation!

We managed to track her location through Facebook and google maps pinpointed her location where she'd entered Facebook

from a mobile phone in the middle of one of the largest and most dangerous shanty towns in Olinda.

I took one of our other male team members and a friend from social services and went into the shanty town with a photo of the girl.

We went deeper and deeper into the shanty town showing the photo asking people if they'd seen her.

We eventually found some kids who recognised her and took us to a small house down a narrow dirt alley. We found the girl asleep under a pile of clothes.

She cried when I woke her up... no one had ever gone after her before and she was afraid we'd reject her if she turned up at the ReVive house. I told her that we'd never reject her, she's part of our family and that there's nowhere we wouldn't go after her.

She's now safe and happy back at the ReVive house. Thanks to everyone who prayed for her during this time.



MONTE HOREBE

B R A Z I L



Written by John and Phyllis Logan

That is the best phrase that we have found to express our feelings about 12th September 2014. On that wonderful day we received news that made our hearts beat faster, stronger and more gratefully... all due to God's kindness. He is sovereign over all. On the same day we received news that the Caçador Community School is legally authorised to operate from February 2015. For some time the school has been operating informally on a "reinforcement" basis supporting the learning of children who hitherto had to travel more than an hour to school on dirt roads and on an intermittent bus service.

Monte Horebe has been informed by the Regional Education Centre that the process of validation, had received the long awaited authorisation. This means that every effort you, our partners, have made has paid off. You, who over recent years, have served the community, who have made financial contributions, who have prayed, who have made donations of time and resources, have helped to make this happen. Because of your commitment our visionary flame was not extinguished.

This victory must be celebrated. We hope that soon classrooms will have children studying at normal school hours and the play area will resound to the voices of children enjoying a safe, stimulating environment. Our prayer is that the community will continue to see the school as a place where childhood experiences, both educational and leisure, can be optimised.

Monte Horebe thanks all its partners: the Vineyard Churches of Itaperucu and Curitiba; the Prada Baptist Church; SAM Ministries (Canada) in the persons of Earl and Ruth Trekofski; St Patrick's and St Andrew's Churches (Coleraine) represented by our colleagues John and Phyllis Logan and the people of Coleraine.

We also thank Sr Antonio Vitor who provided part of the land where the centre is built. He did this because he believes that the school is of paramount importance to the community.

To God be the glory!

*Abel Furquim (Director MH) and
John and Phyllis Logan*

Salta Team visit Down & Dromore

In June 2014 a small team from Salta, Northern Argentina visited the UK. Three members of the team (Ezequiel Oriz, Marcos Humacata & Daniel Lescano) tell us a bit about their time in Northern Ireland.

What are 2 of the highlights of your visit to Northern Ireland?

Ezequiel: The visit to the Exodus project. I was impressed by how the programme was carried out that involves different churches, and their vision to form future leaders and missionaries through a variety of steps and activities. The second thing was hearing how Willowfield Church had developed and how they work today with such a large number of volunteers and activities that involve non-Christians.

Marcos: It was a blessing to see the leadership development in Willowfield. We were able to see how important it is for them to get close to those who live on the streets. The second was our

visit to Exodus, the discipleship programme for young people. Much of their work is through Bible studies and mission trips.

Daniel: As opposed to the other places we had been in we had the chance to hear a lot about the ministries that were outside of the church and how people are reached in different ways. We were also encouraged by each talk that we had and the interest of the leaders (Bishop and Pastors) to deepen the relationship between the churches and the diocese. The whole trip was a rich experience.

Of all the things you saw and heard, what has been most helpful to you in your ministry in Salta?

Ezequiel: The slogan that the church in Ireland has, to go out, and be concerned to reach new people. It is an area we need to work on, training volunteers and continually reaching out to new people.

Marcos: Seeing how we can get closer to people who don't know Christ, through the different club activities, men's club, prayer walk, children's club etc. All of this served to give me new ideas.

Daniel: Seeing and hearing these good things has given us new ideas, encouraged us and above all has helped us refocus on what is really important in God's work.

What is your message to the church in Northern Ireland?

Ezequiel: Don't stop being a blessing. Seeing the organisation of the ministries and the

activities that are carried out in your programmes made a big impression on us and encourages us to continue to grow and progress with much enthusiasm.

Marcos: Follow the vision of being a living church. Continue to be convinced that the church today is hope for the World through Jesus Christ.

Daniel: "Never stop doing good, especially to the family of the faith" for this is a great example to us and for many others.



*Back row: Hugo Vergara, Marcos Humacata & Gustavo Grifasi,
Front row: Flavia Vergara, Ezequiel Oriz, Daniel Lescano & + Ken Clarke*



In November 2014 a team from Down & Dromore Diocese visited Northern Argentina. It included Bishop Harold and Liz Miller, Jane Corbett, Jeff Marshall & George Newell.

What did this trip mean to you?

Jane: It was wonderful to have an opportunity to revisit N. Argentina, to meet up with old friends and see the amazing outreach being done by San Andres Church, to all ages. It was very special to be with them as they celebrated 40 years.

It was wonderful to at last meet Alec Deane and Andrew Leake, having heard so much about them. They are both a voice for the Wichi people who are in a terrible situation. They are watching the destruction of their forests and with it their way of life.

Jeff: Seeing first hand the work of the church in Salta and the Chaco was an incredible privilege. We met some amazing people who are living selfless and satisfied lives, faithfully serving others. I particularly

recall visiting a very remote location in the Chaco with Bishop Nick Drayson, where a small community had returned to the previously flooded plains to re-establish their homes and build their church. As we trekked to the forest village, we looked at each other, and almost without saying anything knew that this was really 'living'. Despite not having electricity and modern amenities there was a quality of life, with time to talk and share unhurriedly. Even with their concerns about the external threats to their land and way of life the Gospel gives them a hope for the future.

George: I was so encouraged and privileged to see God at work in and through his people in these places, as they sought to worship and serve God, reaching out into the community around them with the love of Christ.

All the churches work with limited resources (compared to us in the west) and some in very difficult areas, yet they are drawing alongside the vulnerable, the broken and the lost and are

seeing lives changed and transformed. For me personally, I was really blessed by them.

What are some of the things we can be praying for in Northern Argentina?

Pray for the Wichi people as they struggle to come to terms with their changing lives. We pray that The Lord will guide their leaders, so that they can retain their identity and dignity. Pray for Bishop Nick and Catherine in all their work.

Pray that the leadership of the Diocese will continue to grow and that the church family, will embrace a model of discipleship. Also pray that the partnership will be strengthened between the church here and there as we fulfil the great commission together.

Pray for the Diocese of Northern Argentina, that the churches would have a greater influence in the communities around them. Pray that God will move in power and many come to know Christ.



Lizbeth Varillas

What was the course about and where was it?

Firstly I would like to thank SAMS Ireland for this opportunity. I was studying in Buenos Aires for a Youth Ministry Diploma at the Youth Specialties Institute.

What are some of the things you learned during the course?

One of my favourite courses was “The Character of a Leader” where we looked at themes in the personal life of a Christian. I learnt that God transforms our character in a life-long process. He only does it with those who listen to him, obey him and let themselves be changed, even if it hurts. I thank God that He spoke to me and healed me in various areas of my life.

What has helped you most for your youth ministry in Peru?

It has helped reinforce the important basics of youth ministry and that, although there are many things we need to do in youth ministry, we sometimes need to put them to one side and go back to the priority of investing more time in DISCIPLESHIP.

It has helped me to evaluate if what we are doing is bearing fruit or if we need to renew the strategies that we are using to fulfil the tasks that God has for us. I have returned renewed, with new ideas and enthusiastic to implement everything I have learnt. In my time away, many of the youth leaders have taken on more responsibility. To see the fruit in their lives encourages me to remember that our labours are not in vain and God transforms lives!



Claire Holmes, living in Concepción, Paraguay, recently hosted a Simply the Story (STS) workshop in the Anglican church in town. Bryan Thompson led the event, assisted by his wife Amarilis, daughter Jessica, and by Claire.

The STS training taught some 25 local attendees how to tell engaging, accurate Bible stories and ask insightful questions. Sometimes referred to as "inductive Bible study, oral style", it was very exciting to see many of the Paraguayan participants very quickly gain skills in giving 30-minute presentations to small groups of fellow attendees.

Many said how much they had benefited in their own relationship

with the Lord, as well as learned skills in communicating their faith with others using this 'tool' for ministry. One woman, a ministry leader, said how, before attending STS, she had not studied the Bible for 25 years, but since the workshop she has been frequently using her newly-learned skills to share Jesus with others.

Throughout the week, even though it was a "workshop", it was lovely seeing the Lord use the Bible (the "textbook" for STS) to touch, heal and restore lives. Tears flowed as the Holy Spirit would come while we shared Bible stories together and one woman (recently widowed) was spoken to deeply on several occasions.

Claire has reported since the workshop that several participants have stressed how much they were helped by the training and how they are using stories in their lives, families and in ministry, either in casual storytelling one-to-one, or in group discussion.



God bless,
Bryan Thompson

MISSION PARAGUAY

WRITTEN BY DAVID ORRITT

We didn't expect floods in an area normally suffering from annual drought but in spring of this year 300mm (12 inches) of rain fell in one day (the highest in 30 years) in the Chaco region of Paraguay. For many weeks this caused considerable hardship for the Indian communities living in already dire conditions. The plans for Andrew, Philip, Raymond and William from Annaghmore to work for 2½ weeks with missionary Chris Hawksbee and local Indian builders had to be changed. Instead they built three simple brick homes and toilets for families living in shelters of polythene sheets and old corrugated iron at Rio Verde. At the end of the visit when discussing how their faith had been strengthened through the experience, Philip told how he had been moved to tears upon receiving a letter of thanks from Luz, a daughter of one family. She wrote, 'God bless you in your job and on your road wherever you go'.

This year two groups of Mission Paraguay volunteers from churches

across Northern Ireland and England visited Paraguay. Mark from St Columba's Derryvolgie, and Kate from Portstewart, were part of a group based in Asunción where they visited different church communities, organised sewing workshops and assisted with the mobile toy library organised by FEISA, the Anglican Teacher Training College. The group also spent time working alongside Claire Holmes. As in past years over 1000 pairs of second hand spectacles, medical items, clothes and blankets sent from the UK were distributed and a range of children's work undertaken.

We thank God that once again He blessed our visits enabling us to share the love of Jesus, build and strengthen relationships across cultures, irrespective of language difficulties, while assisting the ministry of the local Anglican Church.

Your ongoing prayerful support is greatly valued.

Lurgan

TITCH SWITCH

Dublin

In September 2014 Titch commenced training for Ordained Ministry in the Church of Ireland.

How are things going for you?

What a privilege to be part of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute (CITI). There is a lot going on as the M.Th. offers a distinctive and challenging learning experience based on the integration of the fields of theology, biblical studies and Christian practice. CITI has a strong community focus and I am part of a great bunch of students.

What has been the biggest change for you?

Everything has changed, it's a completely different routine. It did take me a few weeks to get into an entirely different rhythm. In saying that, it's good to have your life turned upside down! I'm intrigued by the words, 'Living for God begins with resting in Him.' I always seem to have an assignment

to complete and there is always another book to read, but in the midst of the busyness of academia there is rest.

What can we pray for you?

Pray that I will always have perspective and patience as I study.



Dear God,
Today I pray for Titch in Dublin.

Wake him!

Warm his heart with your love.

Shake him!

Inspire his mind with your words.

Fill him!

Nourish his soul with your hope.

Hold him!

Protect his life with your strength.

Be with him!

As he studies today.

Amen.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

CRAIGAVON CIVIC CENTRE | FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 7.30PM



LEGACIES

SAMS is extremely thankful for legacies which are left by individuals for the benefit of the work in South America. Legacies can make a real difference to the ongoing work and the extension of God's Kingdom. Thank you for partnering with us. For further information in confidence contact the SAMS House.

Thank you for being part of the SAMS team. If we can serve you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

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