

## Paraguay Prayer Pointers February, March & April 2020



***“For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10***

We give thanks for God’s faithfulness over the past year, and we pray for wisdom as we face the challenges that this new year will bring.

As the Anglican church of Paraguay begins this challenging new year, we continue to pray for the process underway to find a new bishop. Pray especially for pastor Agustin Maidana and his wife Teresa (*see photo above*). Agustin Maidana was recently appointed Vicar General of the Anglican Church of Paraguay by the Executive Committee. This decisión was approved by Bishop Gregory Venables, the presiding bishop of the Anglican Church of South America. The Vicar General is responsible for the affairs of the Anglican Church until such time as a new bishop is appointed.

### **Giving thanks**

***“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love endures for ever.” Psalm 106:1***

For the rest and relaxation enjoyed by many church leaders, school and diocesan staff during the Summer holidays in January and the first part of February. That they would feel refreshed and strengthened as they return to their tasks.

For diocesan administrator Miriam de Greco, and her assistant David Benítez as they get the office running again after the Summer break.

We give thanks for the partial recovery of Énxet schoolteacher Miguel’s daughter Rebeca now back in Dos Palmas, in El Estribo, Chaco, after several months at the Lacimet hospital in Asunción. For stamina for her parents, as they look after her at home. Give thanks for the generous help given by the Cathedral and Chapel congregations in Asunción to help cover her medical expenses. For right decisions to be made regarding possible further treatment. Pray for her full recovery.

In addition to the Proclaimers give thanks for the recent unexpected arrival of 50 Messengers, (not to be confused with Proclaimers) small smart phone size devices with bible recordings in Spanish and Énxet, delivered by In Touch.org via the Paraguayan Bible Society.

For the celebrations & services of thanksgiving in El Estribo, for the land acquired back in 1985 as part of the La Herencia Project.

Give thanks that we are able to go ahead with an indigenous pastors’ retreat in Rio Verde 3rd to 7th of February 2020. Pray for the logistics of getting everybody to the retreat from Makxawaya, El Estribo, La Patria, and La Herencia.

### **Urgent prayer requests**

***“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved, for you are the one I praise.” Jeremiah 17: 14***

For Claire Holmes back in Northern Ireland, undergoing urgent medical treatment. For a return to good health. We give thanks for her ministry in Concepción. For guidance for the future.

For Norma, also in Concepción. For a return to good health soon.

For Chaco ranch-owner Rhett Butler, undergoing medical treatment in Texas.

## **Asunción and greater Asunción**

***“For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2: 6***

**St Andrews’ School, Asunción.** For headmaster Carlos de la Sobera as he prepares for the new school year. For the staff and pupils as they begin the new term.

**St Andrew’s Chapel, Asunción:** Pray for the English speaking congregation as they organise the services during the absence of Bev Richardson, currently in the UK undergoing mission partner formation training at CMS.

**St Andrews’ Cathedral congregation, Asunción:** For Pastors Ronald Irene and Nicky and for the **Asunción city churches in general:** Pastor Ronald asks for prayer for wisdom and discernment and guidance for the leaders facing many challenges. That God would raise up new leaders for his church in Paraguay. For God’s provision, and for integral growth.

**FEISA** The teacher training faculty with its strong Christian ethos asks for prayer, that they would get more applicants this year. For Lourdes Calderini, the director.

**Annex School:** For the future of the former Annex School. According to latest information the school will be continuing independently from the Anglican Church. After its closure was unexpectedly announced in November last year, teacher, parents and former pupils began to meet up to decide how to keep the school running. The Ministry of Education is also involved monitoring the new course. For guidance for all involved in searching for a way forward. For former headmaster Catalino Bogado and all the teaching staff as they plan for the future.

For the Diocesan Executive: for Celino, Priscila, Marlene and Dina. Pray for Celino Rodriguez, the indigenous representative, who in order to attend the committee meetings has a 780km round trip to make between the Chaco and Asunción, and needs the permission of his employer to do so.

**The diocesan office, Asunción:** the government has put in place new regulations for various institutions and organizations. That the office would be able to quickly comply with these new regulations.

**Roque Alonso:** For Pastor Luis Robles and his wife Estela. For a good break this Summer. For renewed strength in pastoring the three Roque Alonso Churches, San Juan, Fuente de Vida and Rey de Reyes.

**El Redentor Anglican School:** Pray for Pastor Luis Echeverría and Gloria Maldonado who run this school, which was started in 2006. That the work here would continue to grow as it serves the needs of the poorer and more disadvantaged sectors of society.

**Misión Esperanza Foster Home:** For director Ana María Zubizarreta, and board member Adriana Fleitas.

**Luque church:** Pray for deacon Esteban Romero. Give thanks for the Christian youth camp which took place in January. That, renewed in their faith, they will continue to grow in the knowledge of God's word after this Summer break.

For the new families coming into the church and those recently baptized, that they may grow in God's word and in commitment and service to the church

For the Luque housegroups meeting for bible study. That they may grow in number.

For continued growth amongst the young peoples' group in Luque, that their faith and spiritual gifts would increase daily.

For work issues and finance: Efraín Romero, Julio Rachid, José Meaurio, Francisca Cabrera.

For the university students from Luque. For their studies, and that they would grow in their walk with the Lord and knowledge of his word.

For all married couples. That the Lord would preserve them in love and unity and that they would be good shepherds of their children by their example, & role models that they provide.

That new leaders would emerge, and that God would provide for their training.

For the upkeep and repairs needed for the Luque church building. The roof leaks and the bathrooms and classrooms are in need of being replaced. The septic tank is also in need of fixing.

Pray that God would provide teachers with a passion for God's word for the children.

## **Concepción**

***"In you O Lord I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness." Psalm 31:1***

**St Paul's, Concepción:** For Claire Holmes receiving treatment for her serious illness in Northern Ireland. A month of fasting and prayer has taken place in January, asking people to pray specifically for the health of Claire and also for Norma who is also poorly, and for the spiritual wellbeing of its members. For the Young people's ministries.

For Ricardo Ramirez and the leaders Saul and Norma, Miriam, Javier, Lorena and Leonarda.

Continue to pray for Hernán from this church as he resumes his studies at the Military College in Asunción, and his ministry of prayer amongst the students.

## **Chaco Churches**

***"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11***



(left) Tomasa and Josefina

**St Peter's Makxawaya** (Southern Énxet speaking church): Pray for Pastor Juan Sosa and family. For pastor Romualdo Rojas and his family, and for helper Leoncio López. That the Christian content of the radio programmes broadcast from adjoining FM radio station would reach many people beyond Makxawaya, to the ranches and indigenous communities within roughly a 40 km radius. For those who prepare talks and

bible readings for the programmes in Énxet, Guaraní and Spanish. Elvio, Neri, Romualdo, Juan and Leoncio.

For the maintenance and upkeep of this historic church. For the cleaning and maintenance teams. For Tomasa and Josefina (*see photo above*), who clean the church and for their role with the women in Makxawaya, and the bible studies they lead. Give thanks for the good attendance at this church. Pray for the emergence of new leaders.

For the Saturday evening services mainly geared to the younger people in Makxawaya. For wise leadership in this area.

For pastor Juan Sosa and his visits to the Southern Énxet diaspora in Valencia and Filadelfia (Mennonite Colonies)

**El Redil, in San Carlos**, (Southern Énxet speaking church) El Estribo. For Remigio Fretes and his family. For wisdom and discernment as they relate to visiting anthropologists and linguists in the coming months.

**Hoy con Jesus church, Karanda, El Estribo** (Southern Énxet speaking church). For Celino as he pastors this church and helper Albino Fernandez. Give thanks for the gifted musicians led by Santiago

**For the church in Dos Palmas, Encuentro con Dios** in El Estribo (Southern Énxet speaking church). There is a need for local Christians to work amongst the Young people in this énxet speaking village. For pastor Gilberto Martínez.

**San Mateo Rio Verde** (Spanish & Guaraní speaking): For Victor González who leads the services and preaches at this church with its mixed Latino – indigenous congregation. For the health of doña Beti, now in her eighties. Give thanks for her many years of faithful witness and service to the church, going back fifty years.

**Palo Blanco** (Guaraní speaking) For the members of several house groups meeting in the vicinity of Palo Blanco, 4km from Rio Verde, and for Victor, who visits them. For faith and steadfastness as they deal with sects and other groups coming in.

For retired nurse Beryl Baker on the ranch 12km north of Rio Verde, still visited by many patients. For the possibility of a trip to the UK for Beryl in the Summer for a much needed break. That this trip could take place.

**For the Manantial de Vida Eterna church** (Southern Énxet & Guaraní speaking) in Sombrero Pirí, 5km from Rio Verde. We give thanks for the increased attendance and commitment

shown in this community. For Catalino, from neighbouring Palo Azul (3km from Rio Verde) and his assistant Silverio Palacio. For political leaders Isidro Cabañas and Wilfrido Alvarenga. For Elvio Cabañas, working as supervisor for indigenous education in this area, for protection during his frequent travelling between his home and office in Villa Hayes on the outskirts of Asunción and his other home in Rio Verde. For his role as a Christian leader, especially amongst the young people.

**Cristo Salvador Church, La Patria** (Guaraní speaking): For retired pastor Niño Pepe. For a return to good health.

**San Juan Church, Las Flores** (Guaraní speaking), La Patria, about 80km from the Trans Chaco Highway. For pastor Gilberto Cabañas, and for the small school next to the church.

**Cristo Volverá church, San Fernández** (Guaraní speaking), La Patria. (100km from the Trans Chaco Highway.) For pastor Robert Fernández and his family. For a good relationship with the other churches in La Patria. For close cooperation between Robert and Agripino Sánchez in neighbouring La Leona 3km away.

**Esperanza de Dios church** (Guaraní speaking), La Leona, La Patria. For pastor Agripino Sanchez as he pastors this church. That money from the sale of honey would continue to provide him with an income.

**Roca de Paz church** Sante Fe (Southern Énxet speaking), El Estribo. For Rubén Severo as he pastors this church along with helper Anastacio. For former bible translator Asunción Rojas as he helps linguist John Elliot on the Énxet language and works with Tim Curtis on the Énxet dictionary. For a good Christian witness.

## **Praying for the sick**

***“and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” Psalm 103 2 (b) -3***

Continue to pray for Rebeca’s full recovery, still a long way off in spite of a great improvement in her health.

Remember again Claire in Northern Ireland, Norma, in Concepción, Rhett in Texas. For a return to good health.

Diocesan Administrator Miriam de Greco asks for prayer for her health.

Luque church and housegroups. Pray for the health of Santiago Zárate, Aldo Rojas, Blanca Benítez, Porfirio Zárate, José Acosta.

## **Discipleship training material and translation work in the Chaco**

***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119: 105***

For Southern Énxet translator Asunción Rojas, helping to produce discipleship training materials with Tim Curtis. For teaching material being produced on Jonah in the Southern Énxet language.

For the Northern Enlhet Bible translation team, aiming to finish checking a new draft of Genesis during February in Filaldelfia (140 km from Rio Verde). For translators Brígido Lowen

and Evencio Froise, for team Coordinator Arnold Boschmann, and consultant Tim Curtis. That the text in the Northern Enlhet language would be accurate, clear, natural, and alive.

For CMS mission partner Tim Curtis who will be on home ministry in the UK during April May and June. For the preparation of talks and sermons.

### **Anglican Centre Rio Verde**

***“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge.” 2 Peter 1: 5***

Give thanks for recent improvements to the centre, with several new concrete pillars for the electric cables installed and electric fittings, including fans, in the new classroom. For protection for the electric installations, computers, fridges, in view of the frequent power surges, spikes and power cuts.

For the forthcoming pastoral retreats taking place throughout the year, and for pastor Agustin Maidana and Chris Hawksbee as they arrange the schedule for this retreat. For good weather, so that pastors and church leaders are able to attend. For the practical arrangements, cooks and cleaners, organized by Victor Gonzalez.

For the “albergue” or shelter /lodging for indigenous people, patients who often stay overnight at the centre on their way to hospital in Asuncion or Villa Hayes and which is also used for the pastors’ retreats. That the Lord would protect these buildings.



Above left – San Mateo, Rio Verde

Above right – installation of fans in the new classroom, Rio Verde.

With love in the Lord

Tim Curtis, on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay