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WELCOME TO OUR LATEST EDITION OF SNAP

Jonah 4 vs 1-5

But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, "Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

But the Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city.

"Do you ever get angry when things don't go as you want them to? and do you cry "I told you so!" when you warned that a thing might happen and it does?"

Jonah felt very angry because he knew the people of Nineveh would not be saved

Jonah felt very angry when he saw the people of Ninevah repent, and he said something like "I told you so" to God (v2) It was all because Jonah was a Jew and he didn't want God to show mercy and forgiveness to the people of Ninevah, who had been so cruel and evil. Jonah wanted to punish the people of Ninevah, not to forgive them, so although he done what he was told, he took himself off afterwards for a good sulk. He had no reply when God asked him if he thought he was right to be angry. It is encouraging to see that God uses people like Jonah even though they are not always as nice as we would expect. That means that He can use us too, even though we have faults and failings, but it is never wise to get angry with God.

Thought: How can God use us today?

Prayer: Dear Lord keep us from anger and pride for your sake. Amen.

(The above devotional came from a book called Family Prayers issued in 1973 by Scripture Union)

Claire Holmes has been home for over a year. We thought it would be great to ask her to write about some of the things that were happening in Concepcion to help us continue to pray for the Church in this part of Paraguay especially during these COVID 19 times.

CONCEPTION - PARAGUAY





Claire in Concepción



A week in the life of the church in Concepcion.

Monday: Monday has always been a day of rest for the leaders. Please pray that they will be spiritually refreshed.

Tuesday: Tuesday has always been a day of meetings for prayer and planning - the team who work with the children and young people, the church prayer meeting, the Bible Study in Ramonita, one of our annexes in Concepcion which was often attended by children and young people. Children aren't allowed to meet in Paraguay for the whole of this year due to COvid19.

Please pray for the children having a year without school or church and for the adults and young people who have started to meet again,

Please pray too for the teams who work with the children and young people, that God will protect and sustain them and that the teams will grow spiritually and in number.

Wednesday: Wednesday is the day when there is work with children in an area of Concepcion called Inmaculada. There is also an Indigenous Shelter in Inmaculada, where indigenous people who come to Concepcion for different reasons including medical attention, buying and selling goods and documentation can stay for several days. This work is led by Norma and Saul. Norma also leads the work with the children. Please pray for Norma and Saul and the ministry of the shelter.

On Wednesdays there is also a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting with adults,

children and young people in an area of Concepcion called Villa Alta. We pray for the believers in Villa Alta.



Thursday: On Thursdays some of the team taught the Bible in a local school, although schools aren't meeting for the whole of this year due to Covid19. We pray for the schools and the children especially as many of them are losing a year of their education.


In the evening there is work with children and young people in Ramonita - games, singing, Bible studies.

Friday: Friday morning has been a time to meet as leaders to plan, study and pray. Due to various reasons including sickness there are fewer leaders than before. We pray that God will continue to raise up leaders.

For years, on Friday evenings there has been a 'Children's Club' in Villa Alta followed by a 'youth club' in Ramonita for the many young people from 'Villa Alta and Ramonita that attend. It is hard for the young people that this has stopped due to COVID-19. We pray for them at this time and that they will be

able to attend again next year. We pray too that there will be the leadership necessary to keep this going.





Saturdays: Saturday mornings we have had a 'Children's Club' in someone's patio in an impoverished area of Concepcion called San Antonio. The church has been looking for somewhere to rent for this work with children and young people.

On Saturday afternoons a team from the church in Concepcion has traditionally gone to hold a meeting in the Chaco where the indigenous people live. Often around 70 adults, young people and children attend the meeting, we pray for the indigenous especially at the minute as they are experiencing drought and a lack of clean drinking water.

Saturday evenings was a time when a team who are involved in 'Simply the Story' get together to practise preparing and presenting Bible Stories. Lorena went to Peru in March to help, deliver a workshop and hopes to go again soon, but this depends on restrictions, due to COVID-19.

Sunday morning: is when there is a church service in the main church in Concepcion and also in San Juan, one of our country's annexes led by a lady called Tita and supported by the central church. In the evening the church service is held. These are up and running again after lockdown.

In the afternoon a team travels the 40km to a nearby town called Horqueta where a meeting is held with families from the area.

Sunday evening is when the youth meet in the central church for their youth meeting. We pray for the young people and especially that the Lord will continue to raise up leaders for them and from amongst them.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Claire

Daily Prayer Guide Summary:

Monday:

Please pray that the leaders will be spiritually refreshed.

Tuesday:

Please pray for the Children who are having a year without schooling or church

Please pray for the children who are having a year without schooling or church and for the adults & young people who have started to meet up again. Pray also for the Teams who work with the children and young people, that God protects and sustains them and that the teams will grow spiritually and in number.

Wednesday:

Please pray for Norma and Saul and the ministry of the shelter and for the believers in Villa Alta.

Thursday:

Pray for the teams that teaching the Bible in a local school we pray for their encouragement protection and strength in the days and weeks ahead.

Friday:

Pray that the children will be able to attend the Children's Club in Villa Alta next year as this has been stopped due to COVID19 and that there will be the leadership to keep it going.

Saturday:

Pray that the Church can find somewhere to rent for the Children's Club and the dedication for the teams who hold meetings in the Indigenous region. Pray that Lorena has the opportunity to go to Peru once more.

Sunday:

Prayers are asked for the main church in Conception and the church in San Juan. Pray for safety as the teams travel 40km to the nearby town called Horqueta.

Request for Prayer - Paraguay: Drought and Fires

Pray for the Paraguayan Chaco where drought continues and fires are also now causing poor air quality. Parts of the region are also experiencing increased cases of COVID-19 and the EPP terrorist group have been active in kidnapping in the north of the country. Please pray for CMS's people in mission in the Chaco and for all those they serve alongside.

(courtesy of CMS prayer space)

UPDATE: We have been informed that rain has come to the Paraguayan Chaco region. Chris Hawksbee writes "La Patria and Makxawaya received good rainfall last week. Praise our Father in Heaven" (W/E 23/10/2020).



Look at recent interview videos at the [SAMS Ireland Facebook page](#).

