



The Garden Project

Small Group Resource
Session One

"Your life is a print-out of your thoughts."

Session One Overview

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Visual resource available contact SAMS for details

SAMS would like to acknowledge and express thanks to Catherine Drayson for sharing with us the numerous images within this resource.



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Rural People

“

AT THE HEART OF EVERY HUMAN EXPERIENCE IS THE DESIRE TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER; TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR, HUNGER OR SUFFERING.

”

Many of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and are indigenous peoples whose daily struggles seldom capture world attention. Resourcing rural people is an essential step to eradicating poverty.

In this project we are going to concentrate on the Wichí people in the Chaco area of Northern Argentina.



The Wichí

The Wichí are traditionally hunter gathering forest dwellers, indigenous to the tropical lowlands of Northern Argentina and Bolivia. They live mainly between the two rivers Bermejo and Pilcomayo, the latter forming the border between Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay



The Wichí have been living in this region for thousands of years, but their ancient culture is under threat. They are no longer able to support themselves in their traditional way due to deforestation.



The past forty years have seen the arrival of large agricultural companies who have inadequate concern for the condition of the Argentine environment or for the indigenous people. They have deforested large quantities of land in order to grow soya beans.



In the winter the Wichí depend on fish from the Pilcomayo River and in the summer on vegetables grown in their gardens on what little land they have left. Wichí families protect their plots with fences of thorn bushes as random cattle which belongs to white settlers can trample the gardens.



The indigenous tribes have the worst social statistics in the country with high rates of child deaths and illiteracy and widespread malnutrition. It is within these challenging circumstances that SAMS seeks to resource local people to make a difference.



Northern Argentina

The Anglican Church in Northern Argentina works within a vast and challenging context. Scattered around the Chaco region are over 100 rural congregations all led by their own indigenous leaders. The diocese seeks to support these rural communities both practically and spiritually.

In 2011, The Rt Revd Nick Drayson was appointed the Diocesan Bishop of Northern Argentina. The history of the Chaco region can be difficult reading as numerous government agencies and multinational groups from oil companies to bean harvesters have bought and sold land which at one time was the life blood of the indigenous communities.

The indigenous church numbers roughly 15,000. The congregations cover an area about the size of France in mainly off-road areas. This is divided into fifteen deaneries, each with its 'zonal pastor', whose role is coordination and communication within the area and with the diocese.

Nick and Catherine are committed to encouraging, training and mentoring church leaders across this vast region. As a mission agency we encourage you to stand with them today by praying for them.



“Alec’s vision is that the Wichí can live sustainably and with dignity on their own land”

Alejandro Deane, affectionately known as “Alec” grew up in the bustling city of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. He left his familiar surroundings and moved to Northern Argentina where he has been working for 30 years alongside the Wichí people. He remains a passionate advocate for the rights of this indigenous group. Alec is now using his expertise in agriculture to develop a garden project with local Wichí.

The idea to develop the Garden Project came about after a young Wichí girl died of protein deficiency. Wichí families have traditionally grown a few crops to supplement their diet, but this has proved more difficult in recent times, due to the rapidly changing environment.

Vast areas of Chaco land have been cleared for commercial farming. The environmental changes caused by this deforestation means that there are higher summer temperatures

and more frequent droughts and flooding.

Alec, who has a background in agriculture, felt sure that the situation for Wichí families could be improved, if they had some support and good gardening techniques were incorporated. Thus the “Yachuyaj wo” (Wichí word for Gardener) project was born. The secret to good harvests is incorporating drip irrigation and providing people with good seed. Alec’s vision is that the Wichí can live sustainably and with dignity in their own land.

COUNTRY CHALLENGE

Take a good look at the flags and then in your team try to put each flag with the correct country, population and capital for the seven countries.



Country:
Capital:
Population:



Country:
Capital:
Population:



Country:
Capital:
Population:



Country:
Capital:
Population:



Country:
Capital:
Population:

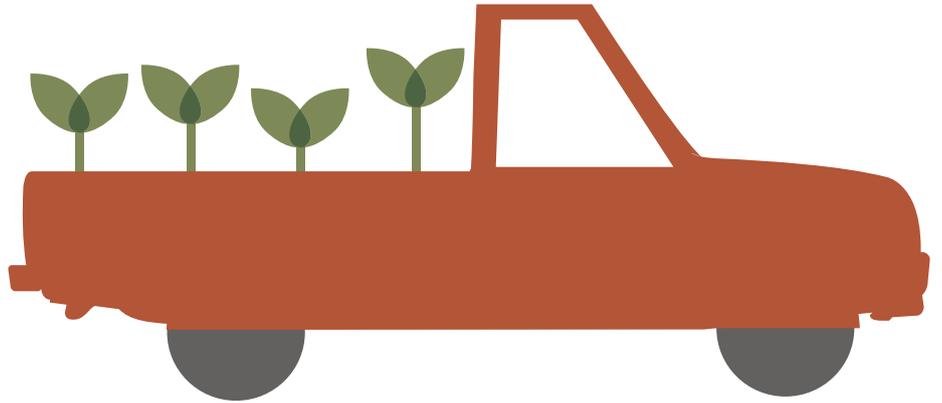


Country:
Capital:
Population:



Country:
Capital:
Population:

Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Paraguay	Peru	Uruguay
3.5 million	6.5 million	10 million	17 million	29 million	42 million	192 million
Asunción	Brasilia	Buenos Aires	La Paz	Lima	Montevideo	Santiago



Opening Prayer

Dear God, there are so many people in the world today who have great needs. Help us not to be stingy or greedy and give us the vision to see beyond ourselves. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn about the Wichí people and the work of Alec through the Garden Project. Make us aware of other people's needs and show us ways that we can help them. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Session Overview

By now Jesus' disciples were going out on their own to teach people the things they were learning from Jesus. We pick up the story in Mark 6 verse 30 as they were returning to Jesus. You can imagine the buzz as they have numerous stories they wanted to tell Jesus from all that they were doing and experiencing among the people.

Feeding the 5000

Mark 6:30-44 (NIV)

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. 31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” 32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

In today’s story we can see how Jesus and his disciples were exhausted after an intense period of ministry. They wanted to be alone to discuss their experiences, update Jesus and simply rest.

33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. 34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. 35 By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. 36 Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

Put yourself in the disciples’ shoes (or should I say sandals!) They were all tired and hungry, so after Jesus had been teaching and ministering to the people for a long time, the disciples tried to encourage Jesus to send the crowd away. It seems fair enough for the disciples to try to conclude the teaching session so they could get some space to themselves and food, the perfect combination when you are tired and hungry!



Discuss the Quote

“Don’t underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of kindness, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”



Live the Quote

Scribble down three people who you could encourage this coming month.

- _____
- _____
- _____

It's nearly comical when we think about the disciples 'plan of action'. But Jesus is Jesus and He knows the many layers in this situation.

37 But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"

Question: How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus told them to feed all those people? How would you have responded?

Answer: _____

When Jesus asked the disciples to provide food for over 5,000 people, they asked in amazement if they should go and spend eight month's wages on bread. They probably thought it was hopeless. Yet Jesus wanted to use the disciples in this impossible situation to meet the needs of others. And, Jesus can use you and your church to meet the needs of others, too.

38 "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five loaves and two fish."

Question: What do you think the disciples team morale was like as they returned to Jesus knowing that thousands of people needed to be fed and they had five loaves and two fish?

Answer: _____

39 Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. 42 They all ate and were satisfied, 43 and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. 44 The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

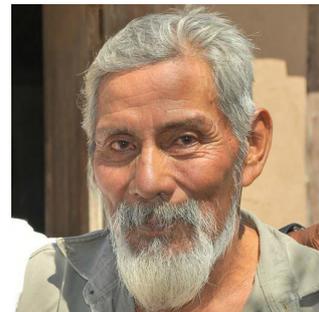
Question: Why didn't Jesus simply make food appear?

Answer: _____

Maybe Jesus wanted the young boy and the disciples to be part of the miracle. Isn't it exciting to know that God uses people like Alec through the Garden Project to meet the needs of others? What about you? How could you be used by God? Will you let God use your hands, fingers, eyes, ears, lips and feet to do His work this week?

Question: What could happen if we intentionally cultivated a culture of generosity in our lives, families, churches and communities?

Answer: _____



Closing Prayer

Dear God, we are your representatives here on earth. We want to be used by you to be a blessing to others. Help us to see the needs of others. Then give us the strength and ability to help meet those needs. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Seed Funding



We have read about Alec and the Wichí people. We have reflected upon the miraculous story of Jesus feeding thousands of people. But reading and reflecting are only part of the combination. We need to respond!

In Mark 6:30-44 we read about a young boy who offered a couple of fish and a few bits of bread. What about taking on the 'Seed Funding' initiative to raise some money to resource for the Wichí people in the Chaco?

Fundraising Ideas

- 1. Auction of promises:** Ask people to pledge gifts in kind, to auction off to the highest bidder. Examples are endless - some ideas are gardening, a makeover, dog walking ...
- 2. Barbecue:** Encourage people to bring a friend, provide food, drinks and entertainment, and communicate clearly what the money goes towards – people are very generous!
- 3. Barn dance:** Ideal for families – if you can get some straw in from your local friendly farmer, all the better. Give out information on the Garden Project and show some images. Contact SAMS for extra resources.



LIVE AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES.



£5

drip irrigation kit

£5 can make a drip irrigation kit to sow 10 furrows of 75 metres.



£15

pliers and wire

Pair of pliers and 30 metres of galvanised wire.



4. Car-boot sale: Arrange to take part in a car-boot sale or have one at your church and get everyone involved. It's a great way to get people together. Contact SAMS if you need extra resources.

5. Cookery book: There are always brilliant cooks and ideas so get a working group together. Use images and stories from Alec and weave the story through your cookbook. Contact SAMS for extra resources.

6. Dinner party: Offer to cook dinner for groups of people for a fixed amount, so they can have the pleasure of a dinner party without the stress of catering for it.

7. Face painting: Pick up a paintbrush and get creative. Have a stall at your local fair or event and charge for each face you paint. You could do children's parties as well.

8. Five-a-side football competition: Do you know some football fans willing to show off their skills? Organise a tournament with prizes and turn it into a fun-filled day for all the participants and their families.

9. Garden Event: Do you or any of your friends have a beautiful garden you would like to show off? Charge people entry and set up tea stalls to make some extra money.

10. Golf tournament: If you play golf or know someone who plays golf why not use this opportunity to raise awareness of the Garden Project.



SYMPATHY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ACTION.



£50 purchase seed

£50 can buy seed (maize, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, etc) for 30 families.



£100 water line connection

£100 can connect four families to the main water line and provide them with water in their homes. The trench for the water pipe is dug by the recipient of the support.



12. Jumble sale: A great way to get money for old rope (literally). Offer a collection service for larger items, tap into your local community with flyers and adverts in the paper, and do teas and coffees to bump up your takings.

13. Karaoke evening: Do you know any budding pop idols who would love to showcase their talents in front of an audience? You could set up a competition with some mean judges to add an extra element to the night.

14. Lawn mowing: A good way to tone up those leg muscles and earn a few pounds at the same time.

15. Marathon/half-marathon: One of the ultimate running challenges. Apply early for your place if you are serious and don't forget to design a training schedule to help you get into shape for the challenge.

16. Night in: Organize a 'night in' with all your friends and donate the money they would normally spend on their night out to the Garden Project.

17. Outgrown clothes exchange: Ask friends to bring clothes that they no longer want. These should be in good condition – they may be the ones you buy and never wear. Arrange the clothes by size or type and then charge people a flat admission fee to try on and take away a certain amount of clothing.

18. Games console tournament: Charge people to enter and spectate and have a good prize for the winner.

19. Quiz night: See if your local church or community centre will allow you to put on a quiz.

20. Treasure hunt: By car, bike, foot or public transport – all combinations imaginable.

£150

transport supplies

£150 can drive Alec's truck with the seed and other necessities twice a month the 350km trip from Salta city.



£200

organize a seed bed

£200 can organize a seed bed to make plants that later will be sown in each family garden. Currently Alec has to go begging for them from the big horticulture farms and hope that they will be generous.





The Garden Project



Small Group Resource
Session Two

“There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things.”

Session Two Overview

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MAP CHALLENGE



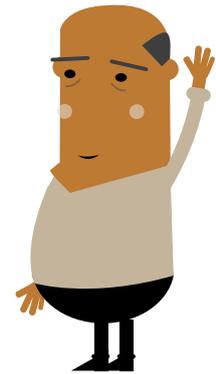
- Examine the map, then take a look at the countries listed below. On the map write down each of the countries where you think they are.

Argentina - Bolivia - Brazil - Chile - Perú - Paraguay - Uruguay

- What ocean is west of South America? The _____ Ocean
- What ocean is east of South America? The _____ Ocean

Case Study 1

“Hello, my name is Antonio and I live in the Chaco region with my family. We are part of the Wichí people.”



Case Study One

My ancestors lived in the Chaco as hunter-gatherers. Things are different now because people have taken our forest and cut it down, the land has been fenced and cattle now cover vast areas. My grandson, Pedro loves to listen to my stories of times gone by when the Wichí were still ‘hunter-gatherers’ moving from place to place hunting and collecting food in the forest. We speak our own language, also known as Wichí, which is very different to the main language spoken in Argentina; Spanish. The first Spaniard to land in Argentina was Juan Díaz de Solís in 1516; a Spanish navigator and explorer.

The changes that have transpired within the last 50 years have been immense.

Numerous multi-national companies have pushed into the heart of our land. My heart breaks when I look at the land and the imprisonment of my people with fences and restrictions being placed around us. The land belongs to no man, we are to care for it and respect it but the machines rip up our forest to clear the land so farmers can grow cash crops such as soya beans. I have watched many of our young men migrate to the towns and cities and it's a place which steals our language and culture. We are looked down on as if we are less important because we come from the Chaco.

I spend all my spare time working with Pedro in my garden. The garden is a happy place for my grandson and me. It's important for me to share life and hope even though I am uncertain about our future. Our traditional way as Wichí was to support ourselves by hunting, fishing, and gathering forest fruits. I hunted for many years and I respected the forest and the animals such as rodents, peccary, armadillo, deer and puma which shared the forest with us. Our forest is fast disappearing. Biodiversity in the area has significantly reduced and parts of the land have turned into a dry sandy desert, leaving us vulnerable.

My grandson is a good boy. There are limited opportunities but I stay strong for him and I know the Garden Project has given me something to build upon. This project is much more than growing food. It touches something deep within us; it gives us some control in our lives. It also builds bridges between the generations and it gives us hope.

REFLECT

- How important is the garden project to Antonio?
- What are the challenges faced by Antonio?
- Does the Garden Project offer basic gardening skills alone or something more?
- Read and discuss the following: "All around you, people are tiptoeing through life, just to arrive at death safely. But dear friends, do not tiptoe. Run, hop, skip, or dance, just don't tiptoe."

Note down two areas in your life where you need to stop tiptoeing.

- _____
- _____

“Hello, my name is Pedro! My family and I live in the Chaco and we are Wichí.”



Case Study Two

I spend all my spare time working with my grandfather in our garden. The garden is a happy place and I love working with my grandfather because he shares with me about his life when he was a young boy like me. He tells me about our history and how my ancestors lived in the Chaco as hunter-gatherers. Things are different now because people have cut down the forest and taken over the land. My grandfather tells me that when he was my age his family moved around from place to place, hunting and collecting food in the forest. He says that the traditional way we supported ourselves, was by hunting, fishing, and gathering forest fruits. It's much harder to follow our traditional ways nowadays because of what has happened to the land.

I love it when my grandfather tells me about his hunting trips. In the days of his youth there was plenty of game and fish. The rains were heavy and regular, much of the land was swamp and vegetation was lush. Jaguar and puma roamed the forests and deer lived on the forest edges along with peccary (wild pig). As a young boy my grandfather shot fish with his bow and arrow in the swamps. Using a hollow reed as a snorkel, he swam underwater grabbing ducks by their legs and pulling them under. He hid in the reeds and would hunt storks and other birds by throwing sticks at them. As he grew up my grandfather learned about animal breeding times, understanding when it was best to carry out hunting trips. It was important not to hunt too many of a species so that it could survive to provide food for the future.

The land that my grandfather fished and hunted has steadily been taken from us over the years. Loggers have felled the forest, and settlers have introduced cattle and they grow crops like soya beans on huge areas of land. This has turned parts of the land into dry sandy desert. My grandfather is sad sometimes when he looks around at the land that used to be such a part of his life, but he wants me to be strong and happy and he always tells me that we have our garden which is full of hope.

PRAY

- Thank God for all that you have.
- Pray for the Wichí families involved in the Garden Project. Pray for good harvests for their crops.
- Pray for Alec Deane, the co-ordinator of the Garden Project.

REFLECT

- What changes would you need to make to your garden if you needed it to produce 80% of your food? How important would your neighbours and church community be in this situation?
- How important is the Garden Project to Pedro, his grandfather and the Wichí people?
- Pedro's grandfather used the natural resources in a sustainable way, maintaining the delicate balance of the forest ecosystem. It is important for all of us to use our resources in a sustainable manner. Can you think of ways we can live a more sustainable lifestyle in our local churches.

Luke 7:36-50

We are not told precisely when this incident occurred, nor the name of the city. The principle characters are Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, and the unnamed woman with a suspect reputation. It is interesting that Luke gives us the name of the host, but not of the woman, maybe omitting her name is a gracious act, purposely done.

At first look it would seem that there are two people equally zealous to see Jesus: Simon the Pharisee and the woman. Simon could easily converse with Jesus in the comfort of his home, around a meal. For the woman, getting close to Jesus was no easy matter. Her life choices, known to all who lived in her town, made it difficult for her to link up with Jesus. Reports of Jesus' ministry and teaching had somehow reached this woman, and she was keen to see him. When she learned that Jesus was to have dinner at the house of Simon, the woman knew it was an opportunity.

The traditions surrounding this meal are important to think about. Traditionally a Pharisee would invite the guest speaker to his home for a meal following the meeting in the Synagogue. The tradition didn't stop with the meal invitation. In order to assure the proper treatment of this honoured, guest, there was a multitude of rules specifying how he would be treated.



This should have included the washing of his feet upon entry to the house, anointing the head with oil, etc. He would also be given the prominent position in regard to seating arrangements.

Imagine the look on the woman's face when she realized that Jesus' feet were not going to be washed. She dared not kiss Jesus on the face, as Simon should have done, but she could kiss his dusty feet. She had come with no basin, no water, and no towel. Nevertheless, as she began to kiss his feet, tears began to flow.

This woman's worship of Jesus was at a great cost to her. It cost her the expensive jar of perfume, the humility to kiss, wash, and dry the feet of Jesus. But there was a higher price than this paid by the woman. A significant price to be paid was facing the scorn and rejection of the self-righteous Pharisees and other dinner guests at the meal. Jesus didn't give the woman a "cynical look," but let's be honest all the others did. Simon's disdain, revealed by his inner thoughts, must also have been evident in his eyes, and so too for the other guests. Remember the setting of the time. For a Pharisee, holiness was primarily a matter of physical separation from sin and from "sinners."

Reflect

Read and discuss the following 3 observations in light of Alec and his passion for marginalised people.

- Any meaningful life is one lived with passionate & committed courage. In the face of difficulties and tragedies be real and honest with yourself. Don't slip into cynicism & inaction.
- We don't look to God to make us secure, we look to God to give us the courage to face our own insecurities.
- Our lives are not possessions to be defended, but gifts to be shared.

Read and wrestle with the above 3 observations and listen intently to what God is stirring within you at this time.

Garden Project Prayer

Garden Project Prayer

Dear God,

On those bowed down by poverty,
Lord have mercy.

On Wichí families whose children go hungry,
Lord have mercy.

On the prosperous who live as if there are no limits,
Lord have mercy.

On Wichí gardeners who labour in the sweltering heat,
Lord have mercy.

For politicians and decision makers who can affect the
welfare of the silent,
Lord have mercy.

On Wichí lands ravaged by bulldozers
Lord have mercy.

For ordinary radicals such as Alec Deane,
Lord, bless them this day.

For ourselves, as we struggle with issues of justice and
sustainability,
Lord, make us the means of change.

*“Do not merely listen to the word, and so
deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”*

James Chapter I verse 22



The Garden Project

Small Group Resource
Session Three

“If you think you’re too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.”

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WORD PLAY

Goal

To encourage, use and understand key terms, and have fun!

Materials

Pieces of paper, with relevant words on them. (See a list of possible words below.)

How to Play

Split your group into smaller groups of between 3 and 8. Then give each group a piece of paper with 10 to 15 words on it. They must then come up with a drama, normally about 2 or 3 minutes, can be longer, that contains every single word on the list!

Choose the words below to suit your group's age and comprehension level.

Try words like Chaco, justice, peace, global, thirsty, poor, water, well, drought, rain, privatization, garden project, church, action, deforestation, hope, hopelessness, etc!

You can also mix and match the list by having some themed words as well as places and names to mix things up. A competition style may get your group more enthused, so at the end give marks out of ten for different categories, like team-work, creativeness, acting skills, use of words, etc! Enjoy!

“The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stir up the steps - we must step up the stairs.”

CHACO
JUSTICE
ACTION
DEFORESTATION
PEACE
THIRSTY
HOPE
GLOBAL
WATER WELL
DROUGHT
HOPELESSNESS
GARDEN PROJECT
CHURCH
POOR
RAIN
PRIVATIZATION

Luke 8:4-15

A Story about a Farmer

4 When a large crowd from several towns had gathered around Jesus, he told them this story:
5 A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field. While the farmer was doing it, some of the seeds fell along the road and were stepped on or eaten by birds.
6 Other seeds fell on rocky ground and started growing. But the plants did not have enough water and soon dried up. 7 Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants. 8 The rest of the seeds fell on good ground where they grew and produced a hundred times as many seeds. When Jesus had finished speaking, he said, "If you have ears, pay attention!"

Why Jesus Used Stories

9 Jesus' disciples asked him what the story meant. 10 So he answered:
I have explained the secrets about God's kingdom to you, but for others I can only use stories. These people look, but they don't see, and they hear, but they don't understand.

Jesus Explanation

11 This is what the story means: The seed is God's message, 12 and the seeds that fell along the road are the people who hear the message. But the devil comes and snatches the message out of their hearts, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it. But they don't have deep roots, and they believe only for a little while. As soon as life gets hard, they give up. 14 The seeds that fell among the thorn bushes are also people who hear the message. But they are so eager for riches and pleasures that they never produce anything. 15 Those seeds that fell on good ground are the people who listen to the message and keep it in good and honest hearts. They last and produce a harvest.

Context

Jesus was standing before a huge crowd. His captive audience was made up of a wide range of people with a wide range of motives for being there. Some people were there for political reasons, wanting Jesus to help their agendas and be their king. Some people were

there for physical reasons, wanting Jesus to help their bodies with food or healing. And some people were there for spiritual reasons, wanting Jesus to help their soul with truth from God. Of all the things Jesus could have said, he chose this parable.

The parable begs the questions, "Where is your heart?" Take a moment and read the following thoughts and reactions from people as they reflect on the Bible passage.

Louise

I am prone, like anyone, to have times of fruitlessness. This passage helps me identify what might be stunting my growth.

Jack

Immediately it reveals a "check yourself" moment where I'm asking myself what soil am I? Am I shallow and only hearing the word and then letting it be snatched away by the Enemy before acting on it and applying it? Or am I rooted, able to receive, retain and apply it correctly to my life?

Chris

I have been part of the church all my life, the temptation is to see myself as the good soil and not recognize that at times, the bad soil is more representative of how I respond to God's Word and instruction in my life.

Emma

I am responsible for how I respond to God. It makes me wonder how I handle the specific challenges that Jesus identifies: Satan, persecution, the worries of this world, the deceitfulness of possessions, and the desires for other things.

Stevie

Jesus' parable of the sower highlights the fact that there are many outside influences that play a part in how I respond to God's word. The passage spoke of the sun that scorches, feet that trample, birds that eat, and weeds that choke. Even though I was born into a set of circumstances beyond my control, I have choices. Every day is filled with opportunities to open or close my heart to God - one choice at a time.

SAMS Challenge

Luke 8:4-15

In the Biblical Bite section several people commented on how the Bible passage in Luke 8:4-15 challenged them. Jack shared how the passage immediately made him take a moment to check up on the quality of soil in his life. He was brave enough to ask if he was shallow, only hearing God's word and then letting it be snatched away before acting on it and applying it. He wanted to raise his awareness, receive, retain and apply God's word to his life.

As followers of Jesus we are called to live in a state of awareness. True Christian worship means involvement with God's world. Our beliefs need to be worked out in the ordinary everyday stuff. As a mission agency we challenge you to participate with us.

Slowly read over the SAMS Challenge on the next page. If you are brave enough, pray the SAMS Challenge and be an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

“In theory, theory and practice are the same. In practice, they are not.”

The SAMS Challenge

I QUIT

I quit playing Church. I quit going through the motions. I quit pretending to have it all together. I quit the status quo.

I quit.



I BEGIN

I begin to be the Church. I begin to take up my cross daily. I begin to respect others who differ from my beliefs. I begin to practise my faith. I begin to put the words of Jesus into practice. I begin learning to love people.

I begin.



I INVEST

I invest in the lives of the broken, the forgotten and the hungry who live in my community and in South America.

I invest.

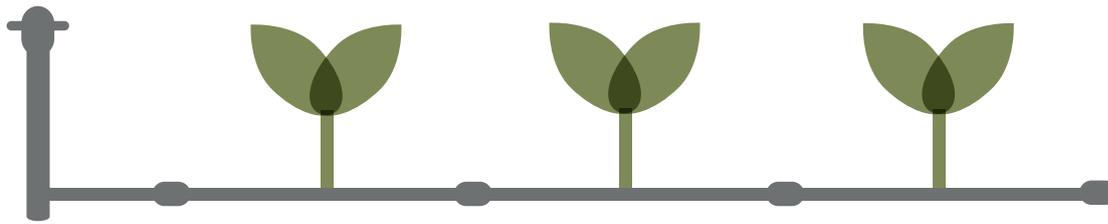


I SURRENDER

I surrender my need to be entertained and I will leave my comfortable chair and exchange it for time on my knees in prayer.

I surrender.

“Action without prayer is arrogance, prayer without action is hypocrisy.”



Q 1

As you reflect on the Garden Project and the Wichí people is there anything that makes you uncomfortable, anything that is refreshing or disturbing, or anything that you are particularly excited about?

Q 2

Macio Rojas is 23 years old. He is deaf and unable to speak. The reason for this is malnutrition at birth. Alec received a small donation and decided that Macio would have the money to build a fence of thorny branches so he could sow his maize. When the fence was completed Alec connected his home to the mains water supply. The first patch of maize he sowed was successful and he harvested it. Macio has caught the vision and is ready to go again. Alec remarks that 'it is a delight to see him not only growing food to eat but growing in confidence and developing new skills'.

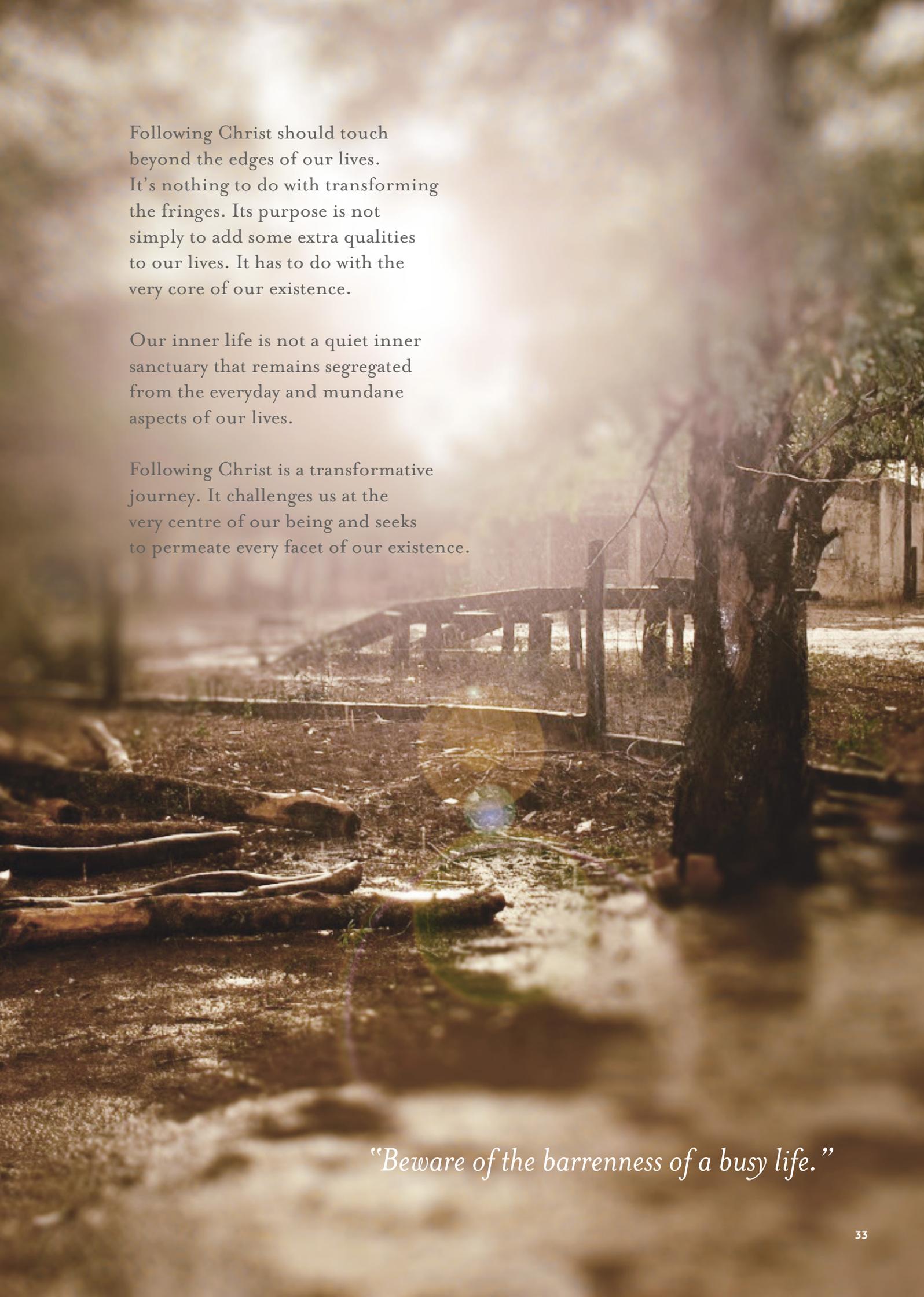
Now that you have seen and understood a little more about the Garden Project how would you describe to someone the impact of investing in people such as Macio?



Macio Rojas

Q 3

Discuss the following: "Prayer in action is love, love in action is service." How will you apply this in the next few days?



Following Christ should touch
beyond the edges of our lives.
It's nothing to do with transforming
the fringes. Its purpose is not
simply to add some extra qualities
to our lives. It has to do with the
very core of our existence.

Our inner life is not a quiet inner
sanctuary that remains segregated
from the everyday and mundane
aspects of our lives.

Following Christ is a transformative
journey. It challenges us at the
very centre of our being and seeks
to permeate every facet of our existence.

“Beware of the barrenness of a busy life.”

- SAMS CINCO -

- UNO -

Mission is first and foremost an activity of God who became one of us.

- DOS -

Mission is possible because Jesus Christ bridged the gap on the cross opening the way for humanity to know God.

- TRES -

Mission is a movement from God to the world and there is church as a result of mission.

- CUATRO -

Mission is an attribute of God's character and a mark of his kingdom rather than an activity of the church.

- CINCO -

Mission isn't an exclusive calling for a few. We are all called to participate in God's mission as His mission agents.



MISSIONAL RELATIONAL INTENTIONAL

Be encouraged and pray with us as SAMS expands into new areas of ministry. As a mission agency we are thankful and excited about the growth opportunities that we are encountering. Share with us and be part of the SAMS family which seeks to encourage, resource and challenge individuals and churches to participate in God's mission.

The words missional, relational and intentional are central to the SAMS ethos and as a mission agency we want to thank you for your consistent support and we challenge you to:

MOVE BEYOND SELF

-Be missional today-

ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD

-Be relational today-

LIVE LIFE WITH PURPOSE

-Be intentional today-



Thanks for being part of the Garden Project



“Live as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”