

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

BUENA VISTA

SUMMER EDITION 2021



Expert Witnesses

REV STEPHEN MCELHINNEY
(SAMS MISSION DIRECTOR)



We all want the pandemic to be over. We have been thankful that in small tentative steps, society at large is slowly becoming more like we remember. The vaccination programme, has been hugely significant in this respect. We are thankful to the Lord that His grace and mercy have been evident in so many ways. We will continue to pray that our post lockdown world will bring much greater positivity, especially for those who have endured great hardship, loss and pain.

Each one of us has been accumulating a great deal of knowledge and experience during this past year. In the future, when talking to the next generation, we will be very well placed to explain just what the Covid-19 pandemic meant for our lives. We will be able to recount the restrictions, the change in working conditions and the impact of technology. We will act as expert witnesses to this pandemic event.

The disciples also lived through a time like no other. They had witnessed Jesus' life and ministry. They endured the uncertainty of his death and the unexpected joy of his resurrection from the dead. Their lives had been turned

upside down and inside out. These events were etched into their hearts and minds forever. They were never going to be short of a personal story for the rest of their lives, as time and time again they gave witness to the Kingdom of God through Jesus. These stories of witness have not dwindled over the years, rather they have been fanned by the Holy Spirit, the one who gives the power to go and tell what God has done.

Scientists tell us that as this pandemic fades there be a new one that will emerge in the future. Until that time comes we will exist in an 'in-between time', getting used to the new lifestyle habits enforced by covid-19, while being alert for a new virulent pathogen. As Christians, we are also living in an in-between time. Christ has come and Christ will come again. This period, also known as the 'parousia' is our time to act. We are to be emboldened by the Holy Spirit as witnesses 'to these things'. Mission will always be about witness. Let's be all the more eager to share our lives and tell others about the Glorious Christ, here, there and everywhere - while we still have time.



"But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth"

Acts 1:8



"ABUNDANT LIFE" AND THE WICHÍ

Written by Chris & Helena Wallis

SAMS Ireland has been working more closely with partners in Northern Argentina as it administers the Chaco Church Trust. Two of these partners in the region are Chris and Helena Wallis who have been working amongst the Wichí people for many years. Chris writes:

"Since 2012 my work with the Wichí has been focused on SEAN's "Abundant Life" course, translated into the Wichí language. There are now some 50 Wichí tutors trained to facilitate the course that has been run in 68 Wichí congregations in the Chaco region of Northern Argentina, with a total of nearly one thousand students.

Many of those who have completed the course have asked, "What next?" So we have been challenged to prepare a second course in wichí. Since there is a tendency among the Wichí people, coming from their animist and shamanic traditions, to seek manifestations of the power of God, we thought it would help to correct their vision of God to focus on His Love throughout the Bible and, in particular, in Jesus Christ. And it is this love, divine love, that God expects from his children. This course is now going to the printers so we would ask for your prayers that it serves the Wichí people to grow in their knowledge of the love of God."

Victor Condori Peru

Mission Director of SAMS Ireland, Stephen McElhinney met Victor at the Perú Diocese clergy conference in April 2019. The third and final third year of his studies at CEP in Santiago Chile. He and his wife Maribel plus their children Isabella and Emmanuel took the brave step to travel to another country for three years while Victor studied in Santiago. With the support of the Peruvian Diocese and Bishop Jorge, Victor undertook training in order to be an ordained church planter in the Peruvian southern city of Arequipa.

They have now been back in Arequipa for a year and a half. Times have been tough with the pandemic hitting the country not that long after they moved back. Their original plans had

to be put on hold as they reassessed what the immediate future looked like for them. Their focus on a church discipleship building programme has looked very different during these Zoom times.

In a new initiative made possible by zoom recordings, Victor invited other international speakers to take part in their on-line services in Arequipa. At the end of May, Stephen McElhinney had the opportunity to send a recorded sermon translated by Claire Holmes. We give thanks that technology is providing ways in which the body of the worldwide church is able to partner with one another in the name of the Gospel. Pray for Victor and his family as they continue to serve the church in Arequipa

LA PAZ BOLIVA

Learning the Artisan Way



Pastor David Antezana

Many of SAMS supporters will remember the walk that Mission Partner Claire Holmes completed in August 2020. Funds raised were used to bring relief to churches who have been adversely affected by Covid-19. In particular, SAMS Ireland was able to partner with churches in South America who used these difficult circumstances to initiate new programmes of outreach.

One of the partner churches has been Christo Redentor in La Paz, Bolivia. The pastor there is David Antezana. As in other parts of South America, many casual workers in La Paz found

themselves without work because of lockdowns. The Church decided to put a training programme together which would teach jobless people new Artisan skills. After a six to nine month course based in the church, participants of the course would learn new hand-craft skills. The plan is to make use of the vibrant street market scene in La Paz, and sell their wares as a source of income.

Some of the skills being taught initially are: sewing, crochet, pastry making and cooking. Later plans may include providing workshops for crafts, interior design and flower arrangements.

"THE GOSPEL WILL
BE EVIDENT IN
WORDS AND DEEDS."

This partnership in Bolivia is the first for some time which represents the development of new relationships with churches in the region and SAMS Ireland.

Pastor David and the team are excited at the new contacts they will have with people. As they walk with the participants through these months, there will be plenty of opportunities to share the Good news of Jesus. The Gospel will be evident in words and deeds.

Elsewhere in Bolivia, Bishop Raphael (Anglican Bishop of Bolivia) has been

encouraged by the development of the Diocesan lay training programme and the number of registrations. Local senior churches and leadership teams are providing the resources needed to make this happen.

A recent speaker & trainer was Bishop Maurice Sinclair. Topics included teaching Christians how to make concrete their testimony of God's call over their lives in Christ.



NEW PRIMATE ELECTED FOR SOUTH AMERICA



Fifty years after he first set foot in Latin America in response to God's call to serve, Nick Drayson (CMS GB mission partner) has been appointed Primate of the Anglican Church of South America. The Bishop of Northern Argentina will take on the responsibility for overseeing the work of the wider Anglican Church in the region as he works with other Bishops.

Archbishop Nick who is originally from England used the words 'enjoyment and endurance' to describe his time in South America so far. Enjoyment in engaging with many people groups of the area. Learning their cultures and sampling their wonderful hospitality. There have been many great friendships in a land of great scenery. The word 'endurance' sums up those times when there were extremes of weather, mud, heat and endless journeys with the odd

complication thrown in for good measure! On his reflection of 'What makes a good missionary?', one of the essential qualities given was the ability to just keep going!

Other ongoing challenges include dealing with endemic corruption which affects many levels of society. The poor have stubbornly remained disadvantaged while oppression and injustice continue often unchallenged. But at the same time, people's readiness to improvise and cope is legendary, and this has often been the case with church communities.

Due to the pandemic, Archbishop Nick and his wife Catherine were detained in the UK for well over a year, but thanks to Zoom, they were able to manage diocesan affairs from a distance. As he returns to Northern Argentina this summer, what are his hopes?

'I would like to see a new generation of transparent, humble and God-fearing men and women, who will build on our wonderful heritage, and discover and develop appropriate ways of doing leadership, training and administration for the new sort of Latin America that is emerging from this pandemic.'

Please pray for Archbishop Nick and his wife Catherine as they embark on this new chapter of ministry in the region.



THEOLOGICAL TRAINING IN ARGENTINA

SAMS Ireland recently undertook to help support the training of future church leaders in the region. The Anglican Bishop of Argentina, Brian Williams, put SAMS in contact with one of the Diocesan clergy Rev Andy Walker who is also a Crosslinks mission partner, and leads a church in Mendoza. One of Andy's roles in the Diocese is to co-ordinate the resourcing and training of the future church leaders. This year, a grant will help with support costs for three future leaders who are at the various stages of training. Please pray for: Gastón Pérez, Jacqueline Ana Tolley and María de la Paz Zabala.



Gastón Pérez



María de la Paz Zabala



Jacqueline Ana Tolley

Luke Pratt, Chile

Luke Pratt, who is originally from Ireland, is completing his third and final year at CEP (Theological Training Institute) in Santiago. Pray for Luke and his wife Penn (and Emily) as they will consider the next step on their ministry journey.

Connected

CLAIRE HOLMES
(SAMS MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER)



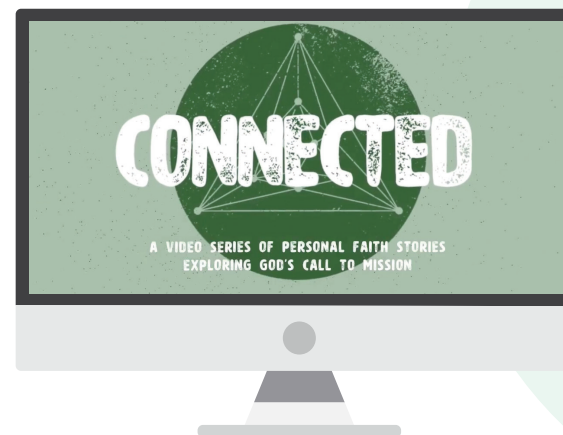
SAMS, Paraguay and South America have been a big part of my life for many years and hold a huge place in my heart. It is therefore really exciting and a God given privilege to be able to continue working part time with SAMS as a 'Mission Development Officer.'

One part of that has been to be involved in "Connected" which is a series of testimonies given by different people from South America and here, people who have been involved in mission in many different ways. Psalm 96:3 says 'Declare the Lord's glory among the nations, His wonders among all people.' It is really inspiring and encouraging to hear of that in practice, how God calls ordinary people like us to Himself and to be part of his worldwide mission close to home and further away, and how he leads, guides, equips and uses us. What a privilege to be part of God's glory

being declared far and wide among the nations and to hear people share enthusiastically about what the Lord is doing.

It has also been great getting to know leaders that SAMS partners within other South American countries, through Zoom meetings and the SAMS monthly prayer meeting and to learn about their ministry, vision, challenges and what God is doing in and through them. We also look forward to launching a Bible based resource which will be used to partner a church in South America with a church here, as they both study the same materials based on God's Word, share about their own reality and support each other in prayer.

Thank you for all your continuing support. God Bless.
Claire



Please scan me with your camera on your mobile phone to be taken to the Connected Series on Youtube

FORMER MISSION DIRECTOR DENIS JOHNSTON WALKS FOR CHARITY



On Saturday 19 June, Denis Johnston completed a walk of 14 miles for 2 chosen charities, SAMS Ireland and Macmillan Cancer Support. Denis wanted to mark the occasion of his 70th birthday by generating support for 2 organisations which are very close to his heart. Denis served as General Secretary to SAMS Ireland for over 20 years. His wife Hilary died from cancer 23 years ago at the age of forty and more recently his younger brother Alan and his close friend Archdeacon Philip Patterson also passed away to that same disease and he wants to remember them at this time. It's still not too late to make a contribution to this cause. To donate, visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DenisJohnston or contact the SAMS Office.

SO FAR OVER £14,000 HAS BEEN RAISED!



Scan me to donate



SAMS News

Celebrating news from the SAMS family

Lima Ordinations

Zoom has brought people together in a whole new way. One such example was the celebratory occasion of the ordination of Deacons by Bishop Jorge at the Cathedral in Lima on Sunday 10 Jan 2021. People joined this service on line from all over the world. Please continue to pray for newly ordained Deacons: Marco McCoy, Raúl Taipe, Daniel Centeno and Teófila Salazar.



Appointments

At the end of last year Brian Williams was ordained Anglican Bishop of Argentina. Despite a name which would not be out of place in this part of the world, Bishop Brian represents a new generation of locally ordained church leaders. Living in Buenos Aires and married to Veronica together with their two teenage sons, Bishop Brian takes over from Archbishop Greg Venables. Please pray for Bishop Brian and the leadership in the diocese. Easter 2021 brought the news of the the appointment of North Argentine Bishop Nick Drayson as the new Primate of the Anglican Church of South America. Archbishop Nick and his wife Catherine have had to endure a protracted period away from North Argentina because of the pandemic. Please pray for them as they reintegrate into South American life with these newly added new responsibilities.

RTE Sunday Worship Service 13 June 2021

SAMS Ireland is part of the Association of Mission Societies (AMS) of the Church of Ireland. AMS had the opportunity to join with



Participants at the RTE Sunday worship service

the Council for Mission committee and lead a service which was broadcast on the Irish National Television (RTE) on 13th June. The Theme was 'Church without walls' and centred around the anglican five marks of mission. The Service was introduced by SAMS Ireland chairperson Bishop Andrew Forster and led by Rev Adam Pullen (Council for Mission). Helen Groves, who volunteered in San Andres School in Paraguay in the 1990's, led the worship on the piano. Rev Karen Salmon who served in Ethiopia gave a thought provoking sermon. Readings and prayers were provided by representatives from AMS and Council for Mission.

SAMS Office

In February, the SAMS Office said farewell to Julie Allen. Julie had been appointed as office administrator for maternity cover since Jan 2020. The Covid pandemic meant she had to adapt in many exceptional ways. Even so, she always seemed to remain cheery and helpful. We want to acknowledge her helpfulness and wish her every blessing for the future.

SUMMERTIME IN *Sligo*



SAMS Ireland FUSION Volunteer Carla Marin (Chile) is based in Sligo, working with Calry Parish church and Sligo Grammar School.

I can't believe I've been here since January 2020. Time flies!

I've had wonderful and challenging moments here, but God has used it all to transform my life. Also, I can see how God is using me and developing my gifts to build up His Church. I can't deny that it's sometimes hard, but at the same time I think it's better this way because I can see His hand in everything.

In Sligo Grammar School, it has been great to see the students and staff again. I had a great time sharing what God had taught me as a disciple of Jesus both with the Christian Union and the Preparation for Confirmation Group.

In the church, even though we are open, we still have Zoom meetings with the youth. We're looking forward to meeting in person again and enjoying part of the summer together.

In Chile, my family are very well and in good health. All of them have already got the vaccine, but in the whole country, cases keep increasing. My Church has done online services since the pandemic started.

I would appreciate it if you could please pray for:

- Exams - for the college students.
- Students who have been suffering from anxiety and depression.
- That the youth come closer to God during their summer holidays.
- God's guidance and wisdom in my work here.
- Spiritual growth in Calry Church
- My church and family in Chile.

Praying for Mission during the pandemic and beyond

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11: 24

Faced with what is going on in the world around us, we need to encourage one another in prayer.

Be specific

When we come before God with 'woolly' requests, we often receive 'woolly' answers. However, each of us will recall many instances when a specific prayer request is answered in a specific way. Praise God! In the pages of this magazine, you will find many specific people and situations in mission. Please pray for them and if you would like an update, please contact the SAMS Office and we will be only too glad to help you.

Be creative

What do you pray for while washing your teeth? Perhaps you seek God's deepening spiritual cleansing in your own life and

in the people around you? There are many 'trigger' moments during the day when we can quietly bring before the Lord a request. When Climate change is mentioned on the Radio or TV - why not pray for a nation like Brazil or Peru where there are all sorts of live climate issues. Pray for the church leaders here and instead of deforestation fires, pray for the fire of the Spirit to sweep across the nation! There is no limit to being creative in this way.

Be persistent

Matt 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved." The 'instant gratification' world we live in has no time for the concept of persistence. Yet when we read the pages of the Bible, persistence is a clear characteristic encouraged in God's people. Let's keep on, keeping on. In prayer, don't give up, rather, endure. In dedication and determination keep on praying. The Bible promises that your prayers impact the spiritual realms.



SAMS ZOOM prayer

The first Mondays of the month at 7pm have been a regular time for a SAMS Zoom prayer room. Each month there is a particular emphasis on a different country, when we welcome someone from that country to update us on specific prayer requests. Contact the office for zoom login details for these prayer times.

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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