



SAMS

IRELAND

South American Mission Society

Buena Vista

WINTER
EDITION 2022

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

MISSION POSSIBLE



You could say that the past 1-2 years have been marked by 'impossibilities'. It has not been possible to freely visit, enter premises, meet, or travel.... the list could go on. We are thankful that there have been marked improvements in many areas and no longer restrictions seem to have the final say on things.

Slowly but surely, what was impossible is becoming possible. In fact this new year of 2022 holds many possibilities. Once again, it seems that it may be possible to travel. The time will come when it will be possible to see people without a mask on. It may even be possible to freely shake someone by the hand or give them a hug without any quiet niggles at the back of our minds!

Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

(Luke 18:27)



I have been drawn afresh to the fact that God is the God of the possible. As we transition into being able to participate in 'possible' events and encounters, I believe that we have an opportunity to engage in life differently with the God of the possible. God has always found a way to do the impossible. Even when it seemed that sin had cast an impossible snare on humanity, God found the one and only way through this conundrum. God has made all sorts of things possible through the sending of His Son into the world and through His ultimate death and resurrection. Indeed the outcome of God opening the door of the possible is that the New Testament writers are able to use all sorts of words that describe what can now happen. Words such as, "overcome", "can", "strong", "mighty", "able", "influence" and "power".

This last word 'power' is a clue to what Luke had in mind when describing how God does 'possible'. Luke uses a greek word which is where we get the word 'dynamite'. Simply, God has the power to do it. God allowed all sorts of possible missional outcomes through the outworking of his power in the New Testament church. Time and time again, when people cried out to the God of the possible in prayer, impossible situations were overturned. This is the same opportunity we have now, as we embark on a new year asking a powerful God to overcome whatever impossibilities we encounter, in our lives, in the Church and in Mission.

Yours in Christ's name

Stephen

Rev Stephen McElhinney
Mission Director, SAMS Ireland



Left: good aquifer in San Luis community

Buena Vista

For us 2021 has been the “water year”. We have done 5 hand dug and 10 deep wells with our machine since January. These 15 new installations produce over 90,000 litres of water per hour, not bad!

Water projects are connected directly with food production and this has been the rule here also. The visits from the Wichi teachers that know the culture and language produce

results specially where one tried the year before. The basic rule is that the great invention of drip irrigation always produces results when correctly used!

Our team of teachers have been taken on by the Government. This is a new situation where we’re risking not being paid but on the other hand it could mean stable work in the future.

“YACHUYAJ WO”

THE GARDEN PROJECT

Alec Deane who leads the Garden Project in Northern Argentina writes:

Early in the year we were able to get support from the Czech Embassy to drill 3 wells. Two of them to be done with the machine (50mts each in Misión La Paz and Dragones) and one with hand tools (28mts in Misión Salim). These three wells were successful although we still have a problem connecting the pumps to the electric grid in La Paz.

We have also been blessed with a very generous donor from the US that has funded 8 perforations this year. Four shallow wells completed by hand and 4 deep wells with the mechanical drill. The 3 perforations done in Misión La Paz produced very good water. Three more drillings occurred in Ignacio and

Santa Maria. Two of them turned out to be slightly salty and one produced good water in San Luis/Arenal. People are very happy that they have this much needed water.

The photo above shows a good aquifer we uncovered in San Luis community. They had an enclosed area with a very good fence but had lost their last harvest due to lack of rain. Our offer of this pump was Heaven sent for them. We will be shortly sending our wichi teacher to set up the drip irrigation network. These last six perforations have put a stress on our mechanical drill and we will be doing an overhaul in Tartagal (nearest big city).

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

1. Work has never been so large and so varied. I have taken on 3 extra personnel to help with the load and that decision was a good one! Prayer is needed so that I can manage the bigger team and decisions.
2. This government has 2 more years in office and possibly will be around for another 4 years so I hope to have influence in public policy decisions.
3. We also have 7 Wichi teachers that are an addition to the team. We need prayer to get them to depend on the government rather than on us.
4. We have done 15 perforations this year. This is a good number and we hope to do another 8 at least in the next 8 months God willing.
5. We have a plan to buy a bigger drill so that we can get to deeper aquifers where the good water lies. This is a bold move, let’s hope it works out and that our donor keeps interested in what we are doing.



NEWS FROM CHILE

SAN PEDRO CHURCH, CONCEPCION

We are thankful that despite the pandemic new contacts in Chile have been made possible. One such new contact has been Alex Cordova who is beginning a new phase of church development in San Pedro, Concepcion. Under the supervision of Bishop Enrique Lago, Alex Cordova will be working to build up discipleship in this local church. Their hope is to have a church plant developed over the course of the next 5 years. Please pray for Alex, his wife Karina and daughter Emilia, the church community at San Pedro and for Bishop Enrique.



BISHOP SAMUEL MORRISON, DIOCESE OF VALPARAISO

Valparaiso is a huge Diocese stretching for over one third of the length of Chile. Bishop Samuel tells us of the value of Zoom in helping the local church deliver courses, which have included 'Anglicanism (Origin and Identity)' and 'Ministry tools for church planting'. There has been a good level of participation from the 13 congregations scattered up and down the Diocese. Please pray for Bishop Samuel as he participates in leadership of the wider church in Chile especially in areas of administration.



DIOCESE OF ARAUCANIA

Please continue to pray for the Diocese of Araucania in Chile which is close to completing its election process for a new bishop as Bishop Abelino Apeleo, retired in December. Give thanks for the ministry and witness of Abelino as he led the diocese. Initiatives like Instituto Biblico Rural (Rural Bible institute) have provided Biblical and practical training for rural leaders in the Araucania Region. At the time of going to press, there has not been an announcement of the new Bishop. Whoever the person is, please pray that they would know God's hand of wisdom and leadership.



LUKE PRATT

DEAR SAMS FAMILY

Warm and heartfelt hellos from a hot and sunny Santiago, Chile! We trust that you are well and are managing to stay safe in the current Covid climate. We have seen an anticipated increase in cases here lately, though we hope it will be contained. One positive effect of the pandemic (if that can be said) is that the violence and delinquency we saw here 2 years ago has largely died down. Nevertheless, Chile is still going through a difficult period, with a migrant crisis, an escalation in crime rates and paramilitary activity, and the recent appearance of Mexican and Colombian drug cartels aggravating already heightened tensions as another December presidential election looms.

That said, we are blessed here. Pen has enjoyed 15 months in her law job, Pen's mother Sylvia is refining her gifting in poetry, Emily continues to love school and is developing her little personality and character

every day, and on December 18th I graduated from CEP. The following day, the three of us travelled back to Ireland, where we will be until mid-February, before returning to Chile. Once back, I am delighted to be beginning a full-time job at our home church, Iglesia Providencia, in a largely pastoral and administrative capacity. We ask that you please pray for this new development.

Other prayer points:

- Chile (see above)
- The Christian witness here in an increasingly indifferent or even hostile environment
- Our continued spiritual growth as a family
- God's plans for us in the medium term (possible ordination, returning to Ireland to live)
- Sylvia's and my mother Xanthe's health
- Safe travels back to Chile in February

**God's richest blessings to you all,
and thank you again for your ongoing support!**

Luke, Pen, and Emily.



FAREWELL TO CARLA MARIN

On 8th December, SAMS Ireland Mission Director, Stephen McElhinney, along with Canon Patrick Bamber of Calry Parish, Sligo said goodbye to FUSION volunteer, Carla Marin. Carla arrived in Ireland in January 2020.



Carla, what have you most enjoyed about Ireland?

I've enjoyed three things. First, to live in a boarding house with 37 girls and 6 boys. This is an experience I will never forget. I've learned a lot about Ireland from them and they've let me be a part of their lives, their highs and their lows. Second, I've had the chance to meet people from countries such as Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Paraguay, Brazil, India, Uruguay and France. It's incredible! How much I've learned from them too. Third, the

weather... I know it might surprise you, but I love it! Ireland reminds me of the south of Chile, where I was born.

What fact about Sligo surprised you the most?

The Bernardo O'Higgins' monument (A Chilean independence leader whose father was born in Sligo!). It would never have occurred to me that I would find something about Chile in Sligo. I was so surprised! In a way, it made me feel at home.

What has been your biggest challenge?

The pandemic has been my biggest challenge. Making things harder, such as keeping in touch with people, and adjusting to restrictions every time they changed. I give thanks to God as He is always there and He teaches me through all of this. My trust in Him has grown so much. Now, I know I don't have to worry about anything, even when things get tough.

What are you most looking forward to when you get back to Chile?

To see my family and friends. I miss them a lot!! I think the first couple of months I will be visiting a lot of my friends and family.

How can we pray for you?

I would be thankful if you can pray for 2 things:

Firstly, that I adjust quickly and easily on my return to Chile. Secondly, I don't know what is coming next, so I'll need God's guidance and His wisdom for the future.



'A MISSION SHAPED HEART'

WINTER BIBLE STUDY SERIES WITH CLAIRE HOLMES IN FIVEMILETOWN

Sometimes, having waited ages for a bus, three come along at once. For us in Fivemiletown, this Autumn and Winter have been a little like that. Having waited for new ministry opportunities, we have entered into partnership with three different groups as a way to encourage each other in our Christian lives.

One evening is planned this Autumn with the Clogher Diocesan Board of Religious Education, as we welcome Jill Hamilton to deliver an online evening of ideas and resources for teaching the Bible to children. Another is a Quiet Day for the parish and diocese, linking with the Fellowship Of Contemplative Prayer, and its Witness for the day, led by Canon David Ferry.

The third is a series of three Bible studies across the Winter delivered by Claire Holmes, in partnership with SAMS Ireland. We hope

to encourage others from the South West of Northern Ireland and beyond, to rekindle their interest in the aims of this mission. Many from this area have either been on short term mission placements or have grown up in parishes which have had a SAMS interest.

Linking with SAMS allows us to benefit from great Bible teaching, but also share the stories of mission-partners and learn about the work overseas. It's a win-win for the parish here and hopefully for SAMS too. Together the household is strengthened and perhaps our vision for God's work today is widened.

You would be really welcome to click in to the evenings planned for 8pm on 18 January and 22 February: link on request from SAMS or fivemiletownparish2@gmail.com.

Must go ... another bus is arriving.

Kyle Hanlon
Fivemiletown



COMMUNICATING CLEARLY IN LISBURN AND ALL THE WAY TO CHILE!

REV JAMES BOYD, RECTOR OF DERRYVOLGIE PARISH, LISBURN

In January 2020 the Select Vestry had taken the decision to upgrade our AV system, however, the raising of funds and the arrival of lockdown during the COVID pandemic put a hold on the installation.

As lockdown eased that September, we set about the physical installation of the new equipment that would enable us to continue our online presence as well as enhancing our in-person services. It was recognised and agreed that as we raised funds for this project it could be an opportunity to help others, looking out to our world as well as resourcing the mission of our parish. Following a conversation with Rev Stephen McElhinney (SAMS Ireland) we partnered with the Anglican Theological College (CEP) Santiago in Chile. This was to enable them to purchase new technology that would enhance how they train individuals for ministry in South America. This will enable them to develop a new media department to provide an online system for theological education and formation. Being able to provide quality recorded and live media for training church leaders and church planters will make a significant impact in a country which is 2653 miles long. The total cost of the project for

Derryvolgie Parish is around €14,000.

We had designated our harvest offering towards this project which gained a wonderful support of €3737 before Gift Aid. We obviously needed to raise more funds and that is where the idea of walking during June came from. We set out to walk 2653 miles during June, that is the length of Chile. We did it – in fact we walked more than that. A team of 49 people pledged several miles per day some as young as 5 walking with others as old as (best not to speculate). It was wonderful to see the pictures coming in daily as we walked and prayed for our community and the nation of Chile.

This project will have an impact for generations to come. Thanks to all involved in the walking we have raised over €4700 before Gift Aid.





INTO URUGUAY - HEART & SOUL!

CONNECTED VIDEOS & ZOOM

CONNECTED VIDEOS & PRAYER ZOOM

Are you on Facebook? SAMS Ireland has had a Facebook presence for several years. In line with Facebook recommendations, you can find SAMS Ireland as an organisation 'page' here at : www.facebook.com/samsireland1 (remember the '1'!)

Over the last year, those of you who are connected with our Facebook page will have noticed a series of video interviews around the

subject of mission. Each person interviewed has answered a series of questions : Tell us who you are? What does mission mean for you? How has mission played out in your life? What advice would you give to anyone who wants to be involved in God's worldwide mission? Why not look these interviews up and be inspired by some familiar faces and some new faces from both here and South America.

ZOOM PRAYER TIMES

What do you do to try help build community in the middle of a pandemic? One of the answers SAMS Ireland has utilised is Zoom prayer times. For an hour on the first Monday of the month, different South American church leaders have been welcomed to share something of their church work and to describe issues relevant to their setting. Before praying, we are given some points for specific prayer. Depending on numbers

present, participants join a prayer 'breakout' room to pray for what has been heard. After a time of prayer, there is some time for further conversation and encouragement. Technology has had a wonderful impact on bringing the 'immediacy' of prayer right into our homes - in realtime. As God's people who practise prayer, let's make the most of these technological marvels!

Bishop Daniel moved to Uruguay from Argentina 3 years ago. He was appointed with a clear vision to simulate renewed missional thinking and church outreach into local Uruguayan society. Along with his wife Mercedes (CMS GB mission partner), they settled into a very new church context and watched, waited and wondered. It soon became apparent that a new approach was needed. After some time, they both became convinced that a fresh Spirit led initiative to start opening the doors of peoples' hearts was to be one of the main initiatives they were to oversee. What has emerged is the 'Soul Institute'. Uruguayan society has been experiencing high levels of mental health issues which have been exacerbated during the pandemic. Where do people go for help when they are in difficult and dark places emotionally and mentally? It's not easy to connect with such people and tragically sometimes it is too late. The 'Soul institute' is a collective effort on the part of the Anglican Church to present to these people, not just another way of living, but to ultimately show people the Saviour Jesus who is the way to find life again in all its fulness (John 10:10).

Bishop Daniel and Mercedes have been using their background in counselling and mental health work. This latest experience is

manifesting itself in allowing them to compile some creative ways in which the church can engage with people in society at large. One such project is 'Soul Home'. There was an unexpected development in June when a tree branch smashed into the roof of what was then the 'Soul Centre'. They were blessed in that no one was injured, but the incident forced a move into another property. This brought with it a moment of clarity. The planned development of a residential 'Soul centre' which was to be the focus of much of this restorative mental health work, should be considered more widely and in the future provide help in 'homes' up and down the country. This latest development has been another step in discerning God's plans.

SAMS Ireland has been building up a partnership with Bishop Daniel in the past couple of years. We were able to welcome him and some of the team from Uruguay on a recent SAMS Zoom prayer time. A SAMS Ireland project grant was made to the Soul Institute last year. Bishop Daniel continues to reach out to other partners who share this same ministry journey on this particular path of encountering mental health issues with the love of God. More information can be found here : www.soulinstitute.life



Soul Institute
Living a full Life
Creating - Releasing - Transcending
Creando - Liberando - Trascendiendo
Yo he venido para que tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia. (Jn 10:10)
I have come so that they have life and have it in abundance. John 10:10

SAMS IRELAND NEWS

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE 2022 - 'UNMUTED' - A VOICE FOR MISSION

Plans are well on the way for this years Friday night live which will take place on Friday 4th Feb 2022 at 7.30pm in the Craigavon Civic Centre. The overwhelming desire is that we would once again meet up in person. You may remember that 2 years ago, FNL was able to meet about one month before the world entered into a lockdown. We are thankful that last February 2021 a Facebook / YouTube premiere was able to bring not only the people from this side of the Atlantic, but others from South America together. A separate Spanish translation channel allowed this exciting development.

Building on last years experience, we will be

meeting in person for Friday Night Live on 4th Feb 2022. Tickets need to be pre-booked at 'Eventbrite' or by phoning / emailing the SAMS Ireland Office. A recording of this event will be premiered (Facebook and Youtube) two weeks later on Friday 18 Feb at 7.30pm, in English and a separate Spanish translation channel. Our hope is that our Spanish speaking brothers and sisters will be able to follow us live immediately following the premiere on 18th February for a Zoom prayer meeting. There will be a focus on a particular country. Details will be found on the SAMS Ireland webpage nearer the time.

DENIS JOHNSTON SPONSORED WALK 19 JUNE 2021

There was a great sense of eager anticipation in the car park of Lisnagarvey Hockey club, Hillsborough, Co Down. Denis Johnston (former SAMS Ireland General Secretary) marked the occasion of his 70th birthday with a 14 mile walk between two sports clubs that he had played an active role in over the years, Lisnagarvey Hockey Club and Lurgan Cricket and Rugby Club. Many friends and former colleagues gathered to wish Denis well and offer encouragement for the walk which took him nearly 6 hours to complete. Throughout the day, Denis was encouraged by a band of happy walkers which grew in size as the finishing line approached at Pollock Park in Lurgan.

All proceeds raised via a 'Virgin Money Giving page' were distributed between Macmillan Cancer and the SAMS Ireland Mi Esperanza project in Concepcion, Paraguay. The target of £10,000 was surpassed by a magnificent total of over £18,000! We praise God for the generosity of people as well as their willingness to get



involved. As a direct result of this walk, the Indian shelter at Mi Esperanza Church will benefit from new secure facilities for cooking and sleeping. In commenting afterwards Denis said "I have been humbled and amazed by the response from people and I am delighted that these proceeds will help this project in Paraguay, a country that has a special place in my heart"

CLAIRE HOLMES ON MISSION



Claire works as the SAMS Ireland Mission Development Officer

There is a quote by David Platt which says, 'God involves us in His mission not because He needs us but because He loves us.' This is so true and reminds us of the massive privilege it is to be part of God's mission in the world.

Some of the things which have been so encouraging over the last months are:

- Speaking to people who have been involved in mission trips and hearing their stories, not only of how God led them into mission, but also stories of how, as He used them He made a difference for others, He changed their lives, strengthened their faith, showed His power, and taught them really important lessons. These included someone who said that the example of God's family overseas taught them about what prayer really is. Someone else who said they learnt about gratitude and thankfulness and another person who was amazed at how the amount of money they had for a donation was exactly the amount needed to respond to a specific need. Only God could have done this!

- Recognising the beauty of these stories and testimonies, we are doing a new series of stories from time spent in mission. Keep a look out for this on our Facebook page and website and if you have a story you would like to tell, please get in touch with us.

- Communication with our partners overseas as they share about what the Lord is doing where they are and their hopes and dreams, their vision, their challenges and also how much the prayers and partnership of the church in Ireland means to them. Two leaders in South America said 'we know we are not alone' as they thanked the church here for walking with them.

- We have been able to prepare an advent resource for children. A further resource is aimed at helping a church in Ireland partner with a church in South America to learn together from God's word, from each other and support each other in prayer. We pray for strong links to be made between South America and Ireland.

May our hearts and minds be full of what God has on His for the nations.

Love,

Claire

*I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in
deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.*

Philemon 1:6

Unmuted

A VOICE FOR MISSION

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

FRI 4TH FEB 2022, 7.30PM, CRAIGAVON CIVIC CENTRE

Tickets can be booked through eventbrite at:
friday-night-live-2022.eventbrite.co.uk
or by phoning the office.

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LEGACIES

SAMS Ireland 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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