



**SAMS**

IRELAND

South American Mission Society

# Buena Vista

SUMMER  
EDITION 2022

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

# INTERCESSIONS

## A LINK IN THE CHAIN

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During the summer months, we have a hammock set up in the garden. Sometimes there is a missing part when I come to set it up again the following year. This year, it was a carabineer that was missing. This

simple piece of looped metal which quickly joins and locks two ropes together was eventually found. The hammock is now ready for the summer - all that is needed is some more sunshine!





A simple device which links two things together.

That got me thinking about one of the roles of prayer. Prayer is a simple thing to do, which brings a person or situation before God - and links the two together. In the Anglican Church we have a formal name for this - 'Intercessions'. Intercessory prayer happens when we stand in the gap between God and others. Purposefully, during a service, a time of prayerful intercessions is set. This is to allow for the needs of the world to be brought before God. The book of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus has been doing this for a long time:

I have been drawn afresh to the fact that as Jesus lives now, He intercedes for people. Jesus prays for you today to remind you that His act of atonement on the Cross is for now, for you and for all people, no matter what.

When we consider what Jesus is doing now for us, this makes our act of intercessory prayer all the more important. If as his disciples, we are to be like Jesus, we certainly should be people who stand in the gap with intercessory prayer for our families, our communities and for our world around us. So today, I invite you to be intercessors of prayer for the church in South America.

Why not start with the Church leaders? Each bishop in

South American dioceses places a high value on prayers said on their behalf and for the churches over which they exercise their shepherding role.



We are delighted that so many Bishops will be attending 'Kingdom Voices' this summer from the 8-15 August. You can read more about this on pages 8 & 9 of this issue. Please do mark this event in your diary - especially the celebration at St Anne's cathedral, Belfast on Friday 12th August at 7.30pm. Here you will be able to meet and hear stories of the global church in South America and in Africa. This will be a great help as you prayerfully intercede for the Church in South America.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of the other work of SAMS Ireland in this issue. Informing ourselves is one of the important first steps as we seek to become intercessors for mission.

***Yours in Christ's name***

*Stephen*

Rev Stephen McElhinney  
Mission Director, SAMS Ireland

*Hebrew 7: 25 refers to the high priestly role of Jesus:*

*"Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.."*

# THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

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*Each year In partnership with the local church, SAMS Ireland seeks to provide some financial assistance for developing leaders. In this issue, we hear from Gaston, Jacquie and Maria who are from Argentina...*

## GASTÓN WRITES

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I want to share with you what the Lord has allowed me to experience this second semester of the year. As a Church, we were able to grow in 1-on-1 discipleship, building relationships, sharing the word, praying together, and seeking to apply the gospel to our lives. Personally, I was discipling two brothers who are taking their first steps in the Faith, and it is a great joy to see what God is doing in their lives. I also had the opportunity to grow in convictions, character and abilities. **Gaston Perez**



## JACQUIE WRITES

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We want to thank you for your prayers and financial help this year. Through you, the Lord has shown us once again his steadfast love and provision and we are in awe of how He cares for us. This year I have been serving our local church in different areas that have challenged me in different ways. Due to the pandemic protocols, I learned how to stream our services on YouTube and grew in my IT skills. Yet, the most rewarding service has been the one-to-one meetings I have had through the year. I have seen the Lord open spiritual eyes and soften hard hearts to receive His truth, and do that in me in the process as well. **Jacqueline Tolley**



## MARIA WRITES

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I serve at Iglesia Anglicana San Miguel y Todos los Ángeles in Martínez, Buenos Aires. This year God led me to grow in leadership and study of His word. I have learned the importance of studying scriptures carefully and gained experience in preaching in the church. I have been helping with leading the streaming groups, taking care of the broadcast of each service allowing people to watch through social media. Please pray that I may continue with my studies, train others and make disciples of Jesus. **Maria Paz Zabala**





## NEWS FROM LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

It is a blessing to be able to share with you our experience of Anglican ArteSanos (Anglicans in Craft), and the support we have received from SAMS Ireland.

There is a team of Artisans who are presently learning to plan and persevere as new experiences are learned and teaching skills improved upon.

At the end of 2021 a craft fair was held and at the beginning of 2022 the Anglican Crafts Team met to evaluate and plan the way ahead looking at ways in which we can improve the project.

Some people are beginners while others are improving their techniques in different crafts including drawing, painting, making dolls, bread making, furniture restoration, sewing amongst others. An integral part of the workshops is the opportunity we have to pray and share a word of encouragement.

The project has enabled the church to be made known to others. For some people it provides a source of labour, for others it is therapeutic, helping to alleviate stress especially at this time of covid which has affected health, the economy and relationships.

This project is new for us and we still have a lot to learn in the art of teaching, training, exhibiting and offering our goods to others

and we hope to have another craft fair with even better results. We also want to see an atmosphere of companionship and togetherness in the workshops.



An experience which has blessed my life as a pastor has been found in the leadership of SAMS Ireland, not only financial support but also friendship meetings where we pray together and I feel listened to and supported. I have been able to receive advice and it is an encouragement to see, that despite the distance, our church family is bigger than the local church as we know a friendship family.

I see in the leaders and teachers of 'ArteSanos' dreams and goals that they hope to achieve and improve upon with various projects for craft fairs and the sale of their art and also in the time we can use as part of the workshops for spiritual encouragement.

***We thank God for the fellowship in the gospel that we have with SAMS Ireland. Blessings***

*Pastor David Antezana*

***Pastor of Cristo Redentor Church in La Paz, Bolivia***

# DREAMING WITH CHRIST

*I'm 9998 km away from home,  
away from family and friends,  
away from what I know and love;  
and still, I couldn't be happier.*

I'm Tamara Irene, a 19-year-old Christian, born in La Paz, Bolivia, and raised in Asunción, Paraguay by my two wonderful parents Ronald Irene and Nicola Venables. Grateful to say that all my life, my three siblings and I were raised in a Christian environment; my dad's a pastor, my grandfather was the Archbishop of Latin America, and being a missionary is basically built in my family's DNA as we've been doing this for many generations. That's why we moved from Bolivia to Paraguay, my family was called there. So one could say that Christianity has been a big part of my life ever since I was born. My family is connected to SAMS and it's because of them that today, I'm able to say, "I'm living in Ireland."

After finishing my second semester of college, I packed my things up and left for Ireland on 25th December, pausing my architecture studies until further notice. I have been living in the Sligo Grammar School girls boarding house as a MOD (Mistress On Duty) and also volunteering at Calry Parish Church with Archdeacon Patrick Bamber, who along with his family, has been patient enough to stand me, my sarcasm and my nonstop talking. It started as a Fusion placement but now I can proudly say that I'm also the official Secretary



of the church. I mostly focus my attention on the youth demographic of the church community, trying to build a relationship with them while also encouraging more involvement in their own with Christ. Whether it's through Christian events, youth groups, or just a small chat; a little push is sometimes all they need.

Ever since I was little, I always felt a strong connection with Ireland. I was fascinated by everything about it, and thinking that I'm now living my 7-year-old's dream fills my heart with joy. Not only that but the fact that my work is basically to grow closer to God and help others do the same... What else could someone want in life? Although being far from home and missing my family and the 'Asado with chipa guasu'; I'm more than glad

to be here and wouldn't change it for anything. Not a single day goes by where Ireland ceases to amaze me. Greenery is always present in every single open space which contributes to the atmosphere being different, like a breath of fresh air. Well, it's not "like", because it actually is fresh air. If you ever want to be in awe of God's creativity when making the earth, come to Ireland.

During my short time here, so much has happened, but I'm sure that this is just the start of what God has in mind for me. **If you could keep me in your prayers, I would**

**greatly appreciate it. Asking Him that whatever his plan for me here is, that it's completely fulfilled.**

I started this article by saying that I couldn't be happier, and it's true. Although I'm far from home, I found my home here. Although I'm far from my family and friends, I found my family and friends here. I learned to love my life here and found that only by following Christ can someone truly be their happiest.

*Tammy Irene*

**SAMS Ireland FUSION Volunteer**

## MEET THE COUNCIL MEMBERS

**SAMS Ireland has been blessed by a committed group of trustees.**

**Noel Boyd from Donegal joined the SAMS Ireland General Council in 2020.**

I was born and raised in Bunbeg in the Parish of Gweedore. Gweedore is an Irish speaking area in west Donegal.

I was brought up in a church going family. Sunday mornings meant going to church followed by Sunday School.

In 2003 Bishop Ken Good led a Diocesan team from Derry and Raphoe on a SAMS Mission trip to Salta in Argentina. I applied to go, was accepted and spent three weeks there doing a little bit of building work and kids clubs with local churches. Numerous trips to Paraguay and one to Peru followed. On these trips the SAMS teams worked alongside the locals. We helped build multi use buildings, painted churches and helped at youth events and Kids clubs.

It was a great experience and I made many friends on these trips.

Since joining the SAMS Ireland General Council in 2020, I have enjoyed getting to know the other trustees. Please continue to pray for the General Council as we seek to know God's will as partnership links are developed with the church in South America.

*Noel Boyd*







## Kingdom Voices

# KINGDOM VOICES

For many years, the local church in Ireland has been blessed with the encouragement that comes from the visits of overseas church members. Having an overseas leader present in parishes has greatly helped to raise the awareness of the global church and help facilitate ongoing missional support and prayer. These past couple of years has had a profound effect on this visible side of the worldwide church. The absence of overseas friends has meant that mission awareness is not what it could be.

Against this backdrop, two local mission agencies CMSI and SAMS Ireland, are joining together during the week of 8th - 15th August 2022, to welcome and host 20 bishops and their spouses from Africa 18 South America. These overseas leaders will be present for a special event called 'Kingdom Voices'. In addition to spending time with link parishes and supporters, the global guests will contribute to two events that CMSI and SAMS Ireland are jointly hosting.

# LISTENING TOGETHER

On Wednesday 10th August, there will be a day conference in Belfast for Church of Ireland leaders, entitled 'Kingdom Voices: making our mark.' The programme will be structured around the Anglican 'Five Marks Of Mission'. The main aims of the event are:

- To provide an opportunity for engaging together as leaders within the worldwide Church.
- To hear from – and learn from – the practical experiences of our Global Partners.
- To explore God's Word together as we consider our shared calling to mission and to seeing God's Kingdom Come in our own communities.

The event for church leaders will take place between 10am and 4pm in St Donard's, Belfast. Please book here: <https://cmsirelandforms.wufoo.com/forms/s1ibev9m1nncolf/>

**Scan me to Book a  
place on Wednesday  
10th August at  
St Donard's**

*(Church leaders only  
please)*





# WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

On Friday 12th August at 7.30pm, St Anne's Cathedral Belfast will be the host venue for a multicultural evening Celebration. This will be an open event for all who wish to join with the global visitors for a time of worship and sharing. It will be a chance for all to celebrate the richness of the worldwide family of faith.

'Kingdom Voices' has been organised to follow the Lambeth Conference which is being held for ten days in Canterbury, Kent. This conference of Anglican bishops meets approximately every decade in response to an invitation from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In relation to the gathering of a significant number of overseas bishops, Stephen McElhinney (SAMS Ireland) said, "The recent pandemic has had a profound effect on travel. The easing of restrictions in recent months has brought the welcome news that these church leaders can now travel. The church in Ireland will be in for a treat as we welcome our overseas friends once more! The Global church will not just be on our doorstep - church leaders from many overseas nations

will be walking over the threshold right into our church homes and communities. Kingdom voices will be a time of enriching and deepening relationships with other members of the Body of Christ."

Jenny Smyth (CMSI) continues, "Having so many bishops travel to the UK has provided a unique opportunity for us here in Ireland. Bringing these bishops the relatively short distance from Kent, provides the Church in Ireland with a wonderful occasion in which to hear testimonies and stories in relation to how God's Kingdom is growing and advancing in other parts of the world. Having the worldwide church come to Ireland will undoubtedly raise the profile of mission here. After what has been a difficult few years, we would love to see the local church re-enthused in reaching out in both local and global mission."

There is an **open** invitation to the wider church to be present at St Annes Cathedral Belfast for what promises to be an inspirational and memorable evening. **There is no need to book this event, please come along.**

## You are very welcome to



## Kingdom Voices

Global stories of heavenly hope

An evening celebration for all, including input from Church leaders from Africa, South America and Nepal.



Friday 12th August 2022 - 7.30pm  
St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast





*Alex at the Diocesan Synod meeting. Back row , second from the right.*

## ALEX CÓRDOVA, CONCEPCION, CHILE

**SAMS Ireland recently made contact with a new graduate from CEP, Santiago, Chile. Alex has returned to his home town of Concepcion where his is working on a discipleship program.**

Hello, my name is Alex Córdoba, I have been married for 7 years to Karina. We have a three-year-old daughter Emilia. We are originally from Concepción, a city in southern Chile, where we are members of San Pedro Church. This is where our faith was strengthened and we grew in our Christian life.

I resigned from my secular job at the end of 2016 to begin a two-year period of training in pastoral ministry as a full time apprentice, seeking to confirm a call to full time ministry. This time was guided by the Rev Francisco Meneses of San Pedro

Church, and the two years helped to confirm my call to ordination.

As a result of this, in 2019, together with my family we moved to Santiago, the capital of our country, to study for three years at the theological seminary of the Anglican Church of Chile, the Center for Pastoral Studies (CEP).

Last year (2021) we returned to Concepción. For a year, we assisted in a church plant in a neighbouring church community at St. John's Church.

This year, we returned to serve at San Pedro Church. By the grace of our Lord, on March 13, I was ordained Deacon and Priest. My return to the San Pedro church, as well as my ordination has meant a lot of adjustments have had to be made,



but I am now doing something which I dreamed of for many years!

*Our main focus has been to strengthen our congregation and to train its' members with a view to planting a new church*

Our main focus has been to strengthen our congregation and to train its' members with a view to planting a new church in the medium term (between 4 and 5 years). We have already outlined the work plan for the next two years, choosing a group of 10 people to have regular meetings with in order to develop strategies as we seek to build up the church by strengthening and training.

**FOR PRAYER**

Please pray for the work of the next two years as we begin this new chapter.  
We ask the Lord that we would be encouraged even though we might not see evident fruit in the short term.

**Church service at San Pedro, Concepcion**



**Alex Cordova with his wife Karina and Emilia**

Pray also that the church catches the vision of the next few years and participates actively in the project.  
On a personal level, pray that the Lord may strengthen our family and that working as a full-time minister in the church does not negatively affect our marriage relationship and our role as parents.

***(This project funding was made available from Worldwide Charities Foundation (WCF))***





# CLAIRE HOLMES

## *SAMS Ireland Mission Development Officer*

**Anyone who does jigsaws sees how all the small individual parts come together to form the big picture. I often think the church and God's worldwide mission is like that.**

After 2 years, it was amazing to spend three weeks in Paraguay in February. I spent the time catching up with people, spending time with leaders and packing up the house where I had lived for 16 years. I also visited the church school in Zeballos Cue and saw first hand the amazing work they do in that community.

Over the past years, technology has allowed lots of contact with South America but what struck me again was how different and special it is to actually be there. It is good to see things first hand, to share with people in their pain, struggles and joy, to chat face to face and heart to heart, eat together, pray together, and encourage each other to keep going and growing. Mutual encouragement in the Gospel!

In Concepcion, covid and other challenges suspended the youth and family ministry in some of the annexes. As February is the start of the academic year, and Pastor Luis and Regina (see page 13) were also in



Concepcion, we and other local leaders visited families and reinitiated the meetings in some of the annexes.

One story stood out.

It was the day before the re-opening meeting in Ramonita. We had visited the families, scrubbed the church and were talking about needing the grass cut. With that a man who lives next door to the church, without hearing our conversation called us over. He offered to cut the grass and named his price which wasn't expensive. We said yes. With relief he replied- 'Yesterday without warning I lost my job, I have no food for my children. **God sent you.'**

Jigsaw pieces! Here we see many parts - the local church serving in Concepcion, Pastor Luis and Regina travelling each month to be there; those who pray for Paraguay and prayed for my trip; those who give. Above all there is God calling people to Himself and to his mission and bringing each vital part together as part of his big mission picture for the nations - 'Go and make disciples of all nations.'

**God still sends. Prayer, people and resources are still so much needed.**

Thank you for your part!  
God bless.

*Claire*



# PARAGUAY - MEET THE PASTOR

Dear Friends

Greetings from Paraguay. We (Luis and Regina) have been members of the Anglican Church for the past 39 years and are currently pastoring two churches, 'El Redentor' (The Redeemer) in Zeballos Cue' where we have been for the last 15 years and 'Saint Paul's Concepcion since last August. There is a distance of over 250 miles between the two churches.

Following the retirement of Bishop Andres as pastor of 'St Paul's' church in Concepcion, the church hasn't had a pastor and membership dropped as a result of the pandemic. The church is meeting regularly once again and attendance has improved.

Our mission in Concepcion consists of spending about 12 days per month there, including two Sundays when we can be in the church services as well as other meetings during the week. The youth meeting has re-opened in Ramonita, one of the annexes and is well attended on Saturday evenings. On Sunday evenings there is a meeting in Villa Alta, another of the annexes.

We have also made some progress in the process of raising up a future pastor. Guillermo Diana had previously served in the church as a presbyter alongside Bishop Andres and we see Guillermo and his wife Rossi as being the potential candidates for this role. This has the



support of the local church and we ask you to pray for this.

In Zeballos Cue, we have a church school which grows every year and on the 27th May we celebrated the inauguration of the extension which includes new classrooms and a library. Every Thursday morning and afternoon we have services with the children in the school.

**Please pray for the school asking the Lord to protect the children, and for ourselves and the congregations for health, strength as we serve the Lord, and for His provision.**

Blessings.

*Pastor Luis Eccheverria*



# SAMS IRELAND NEWS

## BOLIVIA - CONSECRATION OF THE NEW BISHOP

Church, family and friends gathered for a special day in the life and history of the Anglican Church in Bolivia. In the presence of Nicolas Drayson the Archbishop of the Province of South America and other bishops, Rev Walter Toro was consecrated Bishop on 1 May 2022. This marked an historic occasion as this was the first Bolivian to be appointed by the church into this important role. The election of Bishop Walter was made

at a meeting of the electoral synod on the 18 February and later ratified by the Province.

The new bishop will remain in Tarija, where he has been a pastor for some years. There will be a period of hand over from retiring bishop Raphael, who will be remaining in Santa Cruz.

**Pray for Walter and his wife Adelita and family. Pray also for the clergy of the diocese. Pray for a renewed vision of the church as they enter this new chapter.**

## CHACO CHURCH TRUST

The Chaco Church Trust (CCT) was set up by the Leake family in 1991 to enable ministry projects in the Chaco region of North Argentina. This fund has been used to help provide for much needed practical costs that have occurred over the years especially in the indigenous church communities. Travel, printing and even online radio costs have benefited from CCT contributions. In 2021, SAMS Ireland took over the day to day administration of CCT and seek to continue the emphasis on :-

- The translation and publication of the Bible into the Toba language
- The teaching and preaching of the Gospel through provision of financial help for indigenous bishops, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
- The publication of literature and Christian resources in the indigenous languages.
- Advocacy work for the protection of indigenous land rights, issues of deforestation and creation care in relation to indigenous land.

**We give thanks to God for the ministry of the Leake family and the ongoing legacy via the CCT which will help to grow and assist the indigenous church in North Argentina.**



**One of the 'Abundant life' translations in to the Wichi language helped by the CCT.**

# Buena Vista



# SAMS IRELAND AND YOU

There is nothing quite like being with people face to face. This surely must be one of the lessons of the covid era. God calls us into a community of believers, scattered but yet together. All of us know the recent encouragement of being with each other once again.

SAMS Ireland is reminding people of our Mission Statement: To encourage the Church in Ireland to support, empower and partner with the church in South America.

We are here to support the church in it's mission thinking and activity, to encourage people wherever, that mission is a call for us all.

## BOOK A SPEAKER

Please contact the SAMS Ireland office to arrange a speaker to talk at your church or midweek meeting. Zoom is also a possibility in some settings as well.

## GET TO KNOW A CHURCH IN SOUTH AMERICA

Now that Zoom allows for virtual meetings around the world, it is possible for SAMS to link you to a suitable church in a Diocese from South America. This is a great way to encourage prayer.

## SAMS FUSION PROGRAMME

Why not consider hosting a South American volunteer? SAMS will arrange for a church volunteer to be placed in your church for a year. Having a member of the church worldwide in your congregation week by week can greatly help the local church focus on worldwide mission.

We are there to help in any way possible. For a chat or further assistance, please contact the office at: [office@samsireland.com](mailto:office@samsireland.com) or Tel: **028 38310144**





# Kingdom Voices

Global stories of heavenly hope

An evening celebration for all, including input from  
Church leaders from Africa, South America and Nepal.



**cmsireland**  
equipping the church in mission

**Friday 12th August 2022 - 7.30pm**  
**St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast**



## 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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