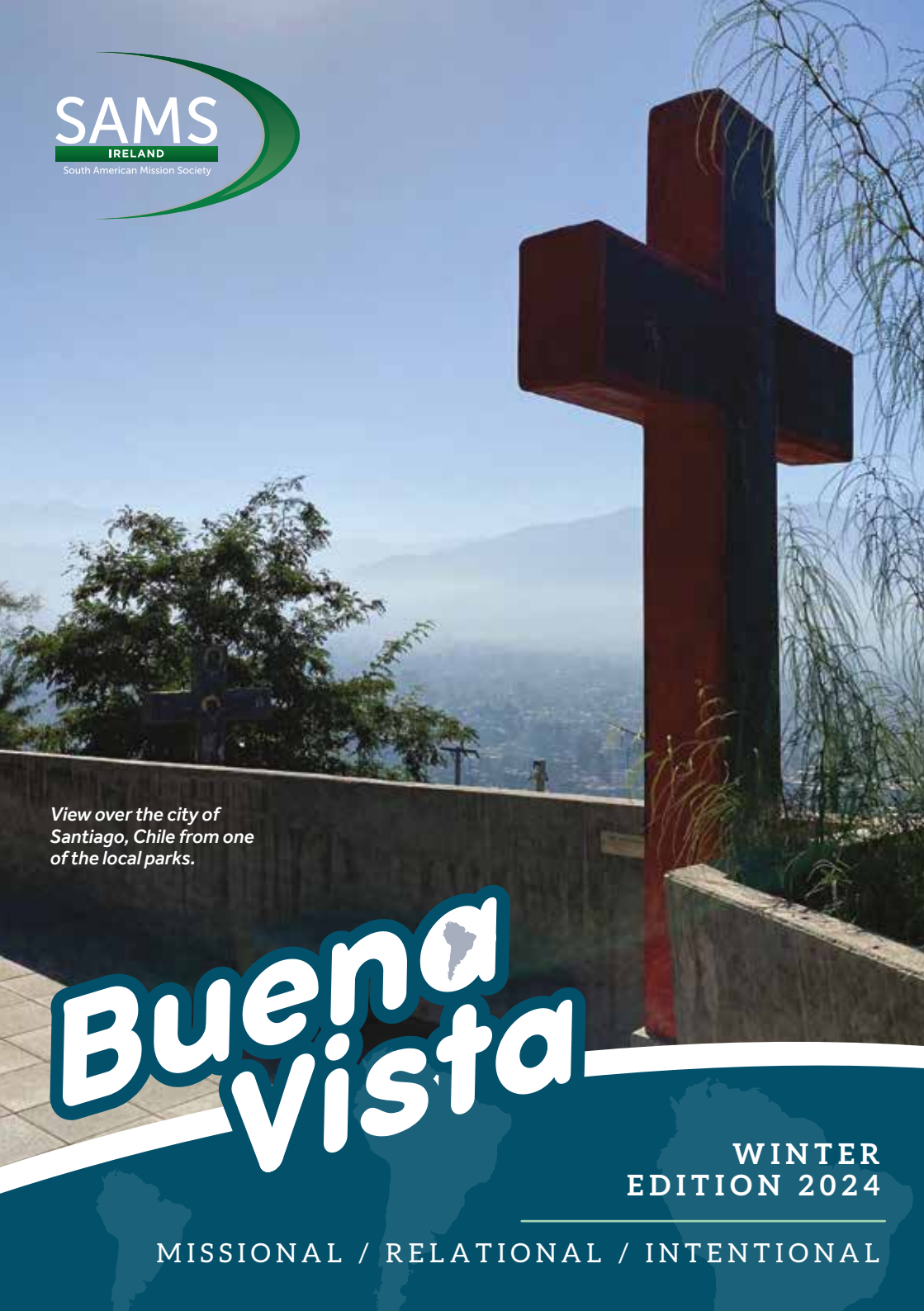




SAMS

IRELAND

South American Mission Society



*View over the city of
Santiago, Chile from one
of the local parks.*

Buena Vista

WINTER
EDITION 2024

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

MISSION DIRECTOR WRITES:

Recently, my phone buzzed with a message that instantly demanded my attention: "There's not enough in your account for today's payment(s) of £100.00. Pay in by 2.30 pm so all your payment(s) are made. To 'OPT OUT', text STOP."

In the midst of navigating my own financial responsibilities, this text served as a reminder of the importance of timely contributions.

However, it also sparked a deeper reflection on my personal contribution to God's call to mission in the church.

Just as the text urged me to ensure there were enough funds for my payment, I found myself asking, "What have I got to give to God's mission?" It's not just a matter of financial transactions; it's about redirecting the resources of my time, talents, and treasures towards the work of God.



OPT IN?

This brings to mind 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, which encourages a generous spirit in giving: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

In facing the challenge of allocating resources for God's call to a lifestyle of mission, I'm reminded not to be someone who 'opts out' of this partnership with God. Philippians 4:13 becomes a personal affirmation: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." It's a call to lean on God's strength and overcome obstacles instead of opting out when faced with challenges.

In this issue of Buena Vista, we will be reminded of several people's contributions to a life focused on mission. We will recall Barbara Bazley's legacy to the church in Chile and hear about others who have given of themselves to take part in mission partnerships with the church overseas. There

will be a challenge to respond and take the first steps in mission to encourage others in Summer 2024.

As I consider my own journey, I realise that contributing to God's mission is not just a collective responsibility; it's a deeply personal commitment. So, let's embrace this call together and 'OPT IN' weaving our personal contributions into a tapestry of compassion, prayer, and tangible support that extends far beyond the boundaries of our own lives.

Your friend in Christ

Stephen

Rev Stephen McElhinney
Mission Director, SAMS Ireland



"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

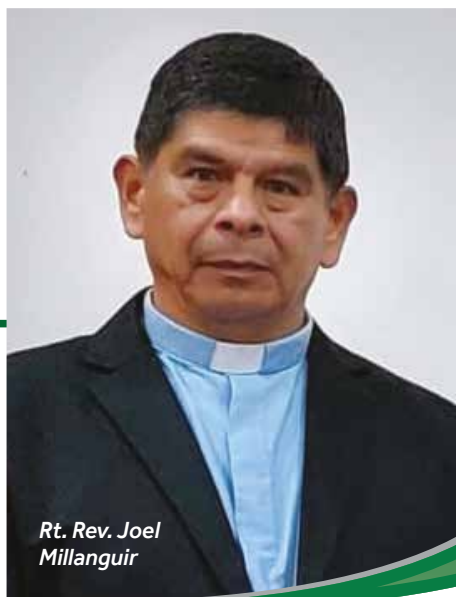
2 Corinthians 9:6-7

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE: SAMS MISSION DIRECTOR ATTENDS CONSECRATION IN CHILE

In a journey that bridged continents and cultures, Rev Stephen McElhinney (Mission Director of SAMS Ireland) embarked on a transformative trip to Chile from December 5th to 12th, 2023. The primary focus of this visit was to be present for the consecration of the new Bishop for the Diocese of Araucania, Rt. Rev. Joel Millanguir.

The invitation, extended by The Most Revd, Dr. Hector (Tito) Zavala, Primate of Chile, highlighted the historical significance of this event. The consecration, on December 10th, unfolded in Cholchol, Araucania Region, amid a jubilant atmosphere. The occasion marked a further pivotal moment in the life of the Province of Chile, emphasising the continuity of the Anglican Church and its Gospel mission and commitment to the indigenous Mapuce church population.

SAMS missionaries have played an integral role in the development of the Anglican presence in Cholchol and Temuco over the



*Rt. Rev. Joel
Millanguir*

years. Their dedication has contributed to the establishment of the Araucania diocese, and the consecration of Bishop Millanguir represents a tangible manifestation of the mission's enduring impact.

During the trip, the Rev Stephen also had the privilege of meeting with other church leaders in the capital, Santiago. These encounters not only strengthened existing friendships but also fostered a deeper sense of fellowship among the global Anglican community. As SAMS mission partnerships continue to evolve, such engagements reaffirm the commitment to solidarity and shared values in the service of Christ.

The journey to Chile was more than a physical expedition; it symbolised the enduring bonds forged through faith and the collective effort to build stronger Gospel centred Anglican communities.



***One of the churches in the
Diocese of Araucania***

FROM SANTIAGO TO LISBURN

FUSION Volunteer Marcos Zavala from Santiago, Chile writes:

Greetings to all. I'm a FUSION programme volunteer in Derryvolgie, C of I, Lisburn. I arrived in Lisburn in September. I am very happy because I have been blessed through the people here. I have seen God's love through Derryvolgie Church. From the first moment I arrived they have been concerned about my well-being. They lent me a bicycle to go wherever I need and it has been great to visit local parks. Soon I will be playing the guitar on Sundays.

The language has not been easy. I thought I knew English, but the Northern Ireland accent is a real challenge. When I learnt English, it was with the American accent and honestly I was expecting to hear something similar to England. But they have a lot of local accents and I have to put in a big effort to understand some people. However, I am also learning some local jokes with people from church and sharing is more fun now.

Now I'm participating in Open Doors Bible Studies, bible studies, leading in Derryvolgie Kids and Youth on Fridays and helping at Global Coffee. I have started doing Spanish Lessons for people in Lisburn. I was a little nervous before my first class but it was great. From the first moment there was a lot of interest, therefore I decided to make one class for a basic level and one for an intermediate



Marcos Zavala meeting Gordon and Beryl Whitehead, who spent many years in Chile

level. James (church minister) and I will also be visiting the local school, Harmony Hill in January to teach some Spanish and tell some bible stories.

I thank God for allowing me to have this experience serving in Derryvolgie Church and knowing great people. Please pray for my stay in Lisburn and the activities I will be doing and also for the people that come to Global Coffee and the Spanish Lessons. Most of them don't participate in Church so these moments are good for a first step of faith.

Blessings,

Marcos

STRENGTHENING BONDS:

PERUVIAN DELEGATES DEEPEN CONNECTIONS IN IRELAND

In a heartening display of cross-cultural camaraderie, two representatives from Peru, Reverend Victor Condori and Reverend Jerry Acosta, recently visited parish churches in Ireland, solidifying friendships nurtured over recent years. The visit, part of a broader tour which included Worcester Diocese, aimed to deepen connections between the South American Mission Society (SAMS) Ireland and the Diocese of Peru.

Arriving in Northern Ireland in early October, Victor and Jerry were warmly welcomed by two local parish communities in Down & Dromore and Clogher Dioceses. The Peruvian leaders, grateful for the enthusiastic reception, reciprocated with open hearts and minds, eager to build on existing friendships.

Hosted by Magheralin and Dollingstown (Down and Dromore) and St. John's Fivemiletown (Clogher), the Peruvian delegates immersed themselves in the traditions of the local Church of Ireland community. The visit



Magheralin Parish Church : Rev Jerry Acosta, Rev Simon Genoe, Rev Victor Condori, Eileen Trew and Rev Emma Gibson

provided a unique opportunity for cultural exchange, fostering a deeper understanding of shared values and experiences.

During their stay, Victor and Jerry shared insights into the ongoing leadership development in the Diocese of Peru, emphasising theological and leadership training programmes. Their passionate discussions resonated with parishioners, inspiring a renewed commitment to the shared mission of the global church.

Despite the brevity of their visit, the impact was significant. Established friendships were renewed, and the exchange of ideas enriched global connections. As one local parishioner aptly put it, "These visits remind us that we are part of something much larger, connecting us to fellow believers in places we may never have the opportunity to visit ourselves."

This weekend of shared faith, culture, and experiences served as a powerful reminder that, beyond geographic boundaries, building relationships is at the heart of our shared humanity. As we bid farewell to our Peruvian friends, the continued partnership between SAMS Ireland, the Diocese of Peru, and other South American communities ensures the enduring strength of these genuine connections, fostering a network of friendships developed over recent years.

Members of St John's Parish, Fivemiletown with the Peruvian Visitors.

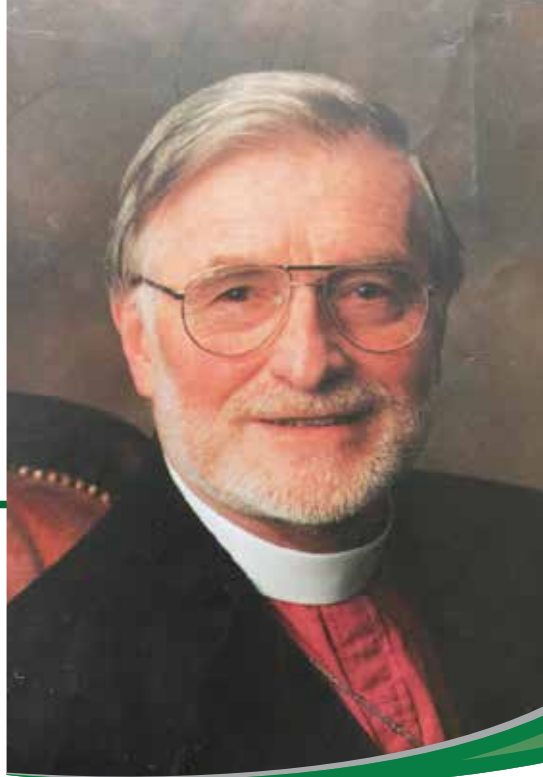


CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RT REV DAVID PYTCHEs: A MISSION PIONEER OF RENEWAL

On 21 Nov, we learned that Bishop David Pytches was 'promoted to glory'. He was a visionary leader whose life was marked by a passion for missionary work through SAMS, a commitment to spiritual renewal, and a profound impact on the Church. David Pytches and his wife Mary, spent 18 transformative years in Chile, where they witnessed significant moves of the Holy Spirit and envisioned the power of the same Spirit transforming their homeland.

Returning to England, David Pytches became the Vicar at St. Andrew's, Chorleywood, in 1977. It was here that he launched the New Wine movement in 1989, a significant milestone in the history of spiritual renewal in the Anglican Church. The roots of New Wine can be traced back to the Pytches' experiences in Chile, Bolivia, and Peru, where Bishop David saw the transformative impact of the Holy Spirit.

One of the pivotal moments in Bishop David's journey was his invitation to John Wimber to St. Andrew's. Wimber's emphasis on healing, the power of the Spirit, and the theology of the kingdom of God resonated deeply with Pytches, shaping the ethos of New Wine. This organisation, founded by Pytches, continues to promote spiritual renewal across diverse churches in the UK and beyond.



Rt Rev David Pytches
(From his autobiography 'Living at the edge' 2002)

Bishop David's life reflected a journey from rural East Anglia to the tumultuous political landscape of revolutionary Chile. His experiences as a bishop in South America, surrounded by the vivacity of worship and freedom of the Holy Spirit, profoundly shaped his later ministry.

David Pytches, with his unique ability to hear God's voice, his humility, and humour, leaves behind a legacy that extends beyond his role as a founder of New Wine. His influence on the modern Church stands as a testament to the accessibility of God's grace and the Spirit's enabling power for all believers. As we celebrate his life, let us remember the man who dared to step into the unknown, leaving an indelible mark on the Church's journey towards renewal.

ALICE IN PARAGUAY

My name is Alice and I am from a small town called Ballybay in Co. Monaghan, Ireland. I grew up going to the Church of Ireland and also studied Spanish as part of my degree. A few years after graduating I felt ready for a new adventure. I had really wanted to spend some time in South America and thought what better way to do it than through a mission and serving God whilst I am there. I contacted SAMS and everything fell into place very quickly.

I arrived in Asunción, Paraguay on 6th of September and so far have met lots of lovely people through church. I began by working in the Anglican Church office twice a week, as well as working in a school the other days teaching English. After about a month, I began working with an Education Psychologist and supporting her with her weekly classes.



Alice just after she arrived in Asunción, Paraguay

People have been unbelievably hospitable to me and made me feel so welcome. I have made some great friends and the people have really made it feel like home.

Alice

Please pray for those who are considering volunteering to serve the local church in South America. If you sense God is calling you please contact the SAMS Office to discuss opportunities.

ON THE MOVE

The adjustment to Ireland after nine-and-a-half years in Santiago, Chile, has been both difficult and gratifying. The hardest part of moving lies in having had to say goodbye to close friends we made, who we continue to miss for their generosity of spirit, for the time they gave over to showing a personal interest in us and care for us, and for their welcoming and fun nature. Along with this, we continue to experience a profound sense of separation from a loving and supportive church family with whom we grew and from whom we learned much in the decade, very nearly, that we lived there. As anyone who has experienced

this kind of separation would say, though we remain in regular contact (and we are thankful that that is possible), there is nothing like being face to face with one's loved ones — sitting down together, sharing that coffee and a chat, joking together over a Chilean asado, praying together, and so on. God was so good to have blessed us — not just Pen and I, but also Emily



MEET THE COUNCIL

Having recently joined the SAMS Ireland General Council, I'm delighted to introduce (or re-introduce!) myself to SAMS supporters. I'm married to Mark and have three girls; Emily (15), Kirsten (12) and Anna (10), as well as two guinea pigs and a dog, so there is never a dull moment in our house! Originally from Portadown, my home for the past twenty years has been Blackrock in south County Dublin. I work part time as a secondary teacher (Spanish and Social, Personal and Health Education) and am also trained in integrative psychotherapy. My counselling work is mainly with couples and families, particularly in the area of trauma, and I am currently completing a Masters degree in Family Therapy. I love walking alongside people to help them understand themselves and their place in their world.

During my teenage years, I developed an interest in mission, sparked initially as my home church had a link with Claire Holmes and Jill Hamilton (née Cully) who were SAMS mission partners working in Asunción, Paraguay. I was so inspired by the work they were doing and hungry to embark on a similar adventure. My love for the Spanish language,

— with such good friends and such a good church family. We are deeply grateful to Him for them all, and for all our life experience, both good and bad, gained along the way.

Returning to Ireland has also been satisfying. We have been warmly welcomed by a generous local community here in north Sligo. The people of the three parishes of Drumcliffe, Lissadell, and Munninane, are keen



Helen Groves

along with a heart for social justice and desire to see faith in action in a different culture, prompted me to apply to join the first SAMS Ireland short term mission team in 1996 to Montevideo in Uruguay. I spent the following summer in Paraguay and then spent a year out from my language degree working in the St Andrew's Annexe School in Asunción, in a children's home and in a local church. Two more trips to Paraguay followed, one as leader on a SAMS team to Concepción and another with Mark just before we got married.

Although it has been many years since my last journey to South America and life has evolved with many twists and turns since those first experiences, I'm excited to re-connect with the SAMS family and explore how God might use me to partner with what is already happening and maybe even embark on some new adventures...!

Helen

to work with us, and are warmly supportive of me in my ministry and of us as a family. Of course, we are also happy to be much closer to my own family here, and to our friends in Ireland. We appreciate your continued prayers for our positive adjustment. God bless you!

Luke, Pen & Emily

“NURTURING FAITH: EMPOWERING CHILDREN’S MINISTRY IN SOUTH AMERICA”

by Mission Development Officer,
Claire Holmes

Often, people reflect on how what we learn as children shapes us, and how, on many occasions, we can remember what we learned as a child (many years ago) better than what we learned yesterday.

Psalm 78:4 says, “Tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”

Many areas of South America are known to have a very young population and great opportunities to work with children. Often, church leaders ask for support in this area. Therefore, through SAMS, we organised a series of three Zoom workshops on ‘Children’s Ministry,’ which were held in October and November. These covered many areas such as characteristics of a Sunday School teacher, prayer, planning a lesson, telling Bible stories, and practical ideas that don’t require many resources.



It was such a joy to work with Penny de Marces, a CMS mission partner in Peru, in preparing and delivering the workshops and to join together with children’s ministry leaders from most of the countries SAMS Ireland partners with. Some of them have been involved in this for years, others are new to it, and some others are just getting started again after COVID. I think we all appreciated the opportunity to be in small breakout rooms to meet with teachers from other countries, have fellowship, prepare and share ideas, and to pray together.

Going forward, we pray that the Lord will direct us on how to build upon this. We have formed a WhatsApp group, which is a great way of keeping in touch, and are also (along with Penny) sharing resources on the SAMS Ireland website. We would appreciate your prayers for ministry with children in South America, asking the Lord to build a generation of young people after his own heart who will love, follow, and serve Him. Any good ideas you have for work with children would also be welcomed, so please feel free to contact us at the SAMS Ireland office.

Thank you.

Claire



SAN LUCAS CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS MEALS CAMPAIGN SPREADS JOY AND NOURISHMENT

In a suburb of Santiago, Chile, San Lucas Church recently concluded its annual Christmas Meals campaign, a heartwarming initiative that brought together the community in the spirit of giving. Thanks in part to the generosity of SAMS Ireland supporters, this year's campaign reached new heights, ensuring that more individuals and families in need were able to partake in the festive meals and receive essential food parcels.

Last year's success paved the way for an even more impactful event this Christmas season. The campaign, a practical expression of God's love in the local neighbourhood, unfolded with the dedicated efforts of church volunteers. These individuals gathered to prepare hearty meals and assemble food parcels that would later be distributed throughout the local community.

Bishop Nelson expressed heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering support from Ireland, emphasising how crucial it is in making this initiative possible. The funds and resources from overseas play a pivotal role in ensuring that the Christmas Meals campaign continues to be a beacon of hope and nourishment for those who need it most.

As the meals were prepared and parcels readied, the spirit of community and compassion thrived. Volunteers from all

Food parcels being prepared for those families identified as being in need over the holiday period.



Volunteers at St Luke's Church, Santiago preparing meals at Christmas time

walks of life came together to embody the true meaning of the season. The warmth of shared meals and the joy of giving enveloped San Lucas Church, echoing the spirit of Christmas in Santiago. The echoes of this beautiful initiative will undoubtedly resonate long into the new year, a testament to the influence of a gospel centred community and the enduring impact of acts of kindness.



JOIN THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

In the heart of South America, a unique opportunity awaits church leaders from Ireland. The “Empowering Leadership in the Church and Building Bridges: South America Mission 2024” is set to unfold in June 2024, offering a transformative 12-day experience aimed at empowering local church leaders, fostering fellowship, and strengthening partnerships with two Dioceses in South America.

The primary objective of this Mission Trip is to empower local church leaders through leadership seminars, providing a platform for fellowship and interaction, and building lasting partnerships with the vibrant church communities of Peru and Bolivia. The trip

seeks to inspire and equip church leaders with the tools and knowledge needed for effective leadership in today's dynamic world.

In a recent conversation with Bishop Walter of Bolivia, he stated that:

“The Anglican Church of Bolivia looks forward to the encouragement and fellowship a mission team will bring. As brothers and sisters in the church world wide, we have much to learn from and inspire within each other. We are thankful to God who strengthens us and connects us with each other”

If you are in a position of church leadership and you would like to be considered for this mission trip opportunity then please contact the SAMS Ireland office : office@samsireland.com

Key Trip Details

Dates: June 2024

Travellers: A small, dynamic team of 5-7 church leaders

Destinations: Two dioceses in South America (exact locations to be decided)

Duration: 12 days (including 2 days of travel to and from South America)

Cost : £2,000 (GBP) approx.





Bishop Colin and Barbara Bazley

A LIFE WELL-LIVED: BARBARA BAZLEY'S ENDURING LEGACY

In the early hours of September 28, 2023, surrounded by her family, Barbara Bazley died peacefully at the age of 87 in Bebington, England. Born Barbara Helen Griffiths on July 2, 1936, she dedicated her life to service, leaving an indelible mark on the Anglican community.

A graduate of the University of Liverpool, Barbara, alongside her husband, Rev. Colin Bazley, embarked on a missionary journey to Chile in 1962. As missionaries in Cholchol, they traversed the countryside on horse-drawn carts, spreading the gospel. The family grew with the birth of daughters Katherine, Margaret, and Olivia.

In 1969, Colin became the auxiliary bishop for Cautin and Malleco provinces, eventually serving as the first Primate of the Anglican Province of South America. This transition brought new challenges to Barbara, who

embraced them with unwavering dedication.

A multifaceted individual, Barbara's passion for Christian music led her to conduct choirs and create the hymnbook "Canta Alabanzas." She authored "Somos Anglicanos," chronicling the history of the Anglican Church in Chile, and crafted stories for children. Barbara's impact extended beyond literature; she founded "La Media Naranja," a magazine for pastor's wives, and organized successful retreats.

Those who knew Barbara recall her clear intelligence, firm character, and immense love for Christ and the people of Chile. Her life, as summarised by Bishop Enrique Lago, echoes the sentiments of Romans 8 - an unwavering commitment to the love of Christ.

Barbara Bazley's legacy lives on through her numerous contributions to the Anglican community, embodying a life well-lived in service to others.

PASTOR DAVID FROM LA PAZ (BOLIVIA):

A JOURNEY OF DEDICATION AND PARTNERSHIP

In the bustling city of La Paz, Bolivia, Pastor David Antezana's life is a testament to his commitment to family, faith, and ministry. With almost five decades in La Paz, Pastor David's journey unfolds as an example of Christian service and a recent partnership with Saintfield Parish Church adds a new chapter to his developing story.

His family, includes his wife Marcia, a music teacher, and their three children: David, the culinary enthusiast; Nicol, the devoted veterinarian; and Stephanie, a recent graduate in Marketing. Pastor David's dedication extends to his mother, Charito, a long-standing member of the church. He continues to pray for his younger brother's acceptance of Jesus as Saviour.

While his culinary preferences range from pasta to hamburgers, his sporting allegiance lies with local La Paz football team - 'The Strongest'

The heart of Pastor David's story lies in his Christian journey. Initiated 28 years ago, his path to Christianity began with a profound encounter during a visit by a charismatic church leader. Despite initial reservations, Pastor David embraced his calling, rejecting misconceptions

about ministry and embarking on a life of prayer and Bible exploration.

For over 25 years, Pastor David has served as a church leader in the Anglican Church, Cristo Redentor. This historic church, the first established in Bolivia, faces new challenges in a changing landscape. The COVID-19 pandemic altered the demographics, ushering in a season of adaptation and outreach to new members. Pastor David's commitment remains unwavering, as he endeavours to teach, disciple, and guide the community towards a deeper connection with Jesus Christ.

As Pastor David looks to the future, the recent partnership with Saintfield Parish Church opens avenues for collaboration, shared growth, and a broader impact.

As you continue to remember the community at La Redentor Church in La Paz here are three prayer points :

- Pray for wisdom and discernment as Pastor David navigates the challenges of ministering to a changing congregation.
- Ask for strength and resilience for Christ the Redeemer Church as they embrace new members and adapt to evolving circumstances.
- Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for the partnership with Saintfield Parish Church, that it may be a source of mutual support, understanding, and shared mission.

Pastor David's life demonstrates his dedication and hope for the future.

Pastor David (middle front row) with the congregation of La Redentor, La Paz, Bolivia





San Juan Discipleship group

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING

Times of discouragement in life, work, or ministry can happen to all of us. There are many things that can discourage us. Yet, the Bible and the testimony of God's people on earth have much to encourage us.

Stephen mentioned the verse that says generous sowing leads to generous reaping.

At times, we may ask the question, "Where's the fruit?" The Bible reminds us of teamwork here on earth, as together we plant and water, while most importantly, God gives the growth.

San Juan, a small rural community close to the church in Concepcion, Paraguay, has a church with an extremely encouraging testimony. I mentioned the growth of this church in the 2021 winter edition, and the Lord continues to bring growth. The church began over 30 years ago when Totito and Tita came to know the Lord. St. Paul's church in Concepcion, 'Mission Paraguay,' and SAMS supported them, but for many years, the church didn't grow. Until suddenly it did! People prayed, the late Totito and Tita taught God's Word, and showed His love as a testimony in their community. And one day, after years of no apparent fruit, the church started to grow steadily in number and spiritual depth.

Now, there are Sunday Services, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Discipleship groups. People serve. Pastor Guillermo, the new pastor in the church in Concepcion who is originally from San Juan, visits regularly to encourage and teach. His Bible discipleship course is attended by 12 faithful disciples.

We thank God for building His church in His time. We thank Him for His faithful servants. We thank Him for the privilege of planting and watering and leaving the rest in His hands. We pray for encouragement, faithfulness, and wisdom for all those who, at this moment, are not seeing the growth they hope for. Finally, we pray our urgency for God's mission will grow.

Claire Holmes,

(SAMS Ireland, Mission Development Officer)



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE 2024

**ROOTED: STANDING FIRM,
SPREADING HOPE**

 **2ND FEBRUARY 2024**
 **7.30PM**
 **ANNAGHMORE
PARISH CHURCH**

SAMS
IRELAND
South American Mission Society

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.

SAMS House

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, BT66 7EZ

T: 028 3831 0144 **E:** office@samsireland.com
W: www.samsireland.com **F:** www.facebook.com/samsireland1