

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

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SAMS
UK & IRELAND
South American Mission Society



The value of your investments can go up or down

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



If you have ever looked at making a financial investment these are familiar words. They are also wise words because they are true. We need to be very careful in such matters. However beyond a shadow of doubt there is one investment which always bears fruit. It never fluctuates. Indeed better still...it lasts forever!

This special investment is our investment in the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God..." He taught us to pray, "Your Kingdom come." Catching this vision transforms our lives. Total giving is Christ-like living. He gave all and He calls us to do the same.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

Investing in people He loves is the way to live. In a culture marked by self obsession, selfish living and "me first" the Jesus way looks very different. Its about kindness, generosity, thinking of others... and all because of Jesus! This is His way. The Cross was for sinners. He gave His life as a ransom for many. Thank God for His investment!

Since serving with SAMS I have been deeply moved by the Christ-like living, the generous giving and Kingdom investments made by many people. Thank you. Thank you to all who pray, encourage, support, give. You are investing in a Kingdom which lasts and in lives which are changed forever. Thank you to each one. Thank you to those who serve as long term mission partners or in short term mission teams. You will read about some in this Buena Vista.

Please go on catching the vision of investing in others, not least in

leaders. I was profoundly impacted in reading the words of the late Michael Ovey, Principal of Oakhill Theological College who died unexpectedly in January this year. He was only in his late 50's.

At an Ordination Service, with a mixture of personal humility and spiritual ambition which was utterly characteristic, Mike passed on the baton to the next generation of pastors and teachers with these words:

'We want you to be better than us, we want you to be more faithful than us - we want you, spiritually speaking, to tower above us so that the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ stands high in this land and that men and women may know the blessings of eternal life. That is our dream for you, that is our prayer for you, not that you are as we are, but that you are better.'

In the power of the Holy Spirit may we catch Christ's vision of making investments which are rock solid...they last forever!!

Bishop Ken Clarke



Interview with Maximiliano Díaz (University Minister Santiago de Centro Chile)

Dear Friends of SAMS Ireland,

It is a great pleasure for us to be in partnership with you in university mission. During the present year we have had a lot of mission activities.

First, we prepared, with 6 other Christian university groups, a complete mission week in Santiago de Chile University (USACH), namely "IMPULSO" (IMPULSE). It was a great opportunity to

preach the Gospel to non-christian students. Our message was that the Gospel of Christ is the only way to a real meaningful life. In this context, we organised Art presentations, fed almost three hundred students with hotdogs, had live music, preached expositional sermons, had forums, debates, and public conversations. We finished the week with great joy, and with almost sixty phone numbers and contacts to follow up.

Secondly, we started the third generation of SEMILLERO (SEEDBED), a training program directed to Secondary and University students. We had 80 participants, from different parts of Chile. They will be with us for two years, learning how to teach the Bible in their context and really thinking about how to apply it.

Thirdly, in our university ministry in Santiago Apóstol Church, we are gathering every Friday as "RCU Nuclear" in the university neighbourhood. We have the leadership training study on how to teach and understand the Bible. Every Tuesday, at lunchtime, we meet in Chile University with non-christian students to have a deep conversation and create a friendship.

Fourthly, please pray for us, as a family, so that we can have a humble and hospitable heart during the mission. Pray too for our university group in Santiago Apóstol Church, so that we can grow in faith, in obedience to the Word of God, in creativity in the proclamation of the Gospel, in bravery and love in mission.

Please pray too for our second "IMPULSO" mission next August, and for the third generation of "SEMILLERO". Pray that we can lead well and effectively.

Thank you so much friends for your support and prayers.

In the love of our Lord Jesus.

Maximiliano Díaz
University Minister Santiago de Centro Chile



MULLAVILLY

We are all really excited about what our trip to Paraguay will hold for us. All the team are passionate about God and joining in partnership with the church in Asuncion. Rev. Donald Brooks from Asuncion visited Mullavilly in November 2015, and we are developing a stronger link with him and his church through SAMS.

We have been holding lots of fundraising events for this trip. The Parish, community, friends and family, have been supporting us every step along the way. We have had so many events, from a Table Quiz to a Sponsored Swim (190 lengths of Portadown Swimming pool) and lots

in between. You name it, it seems like we have done it. These events have brought the team and the parish together, but also welcomed new faces from the community.

In South America we hope to spend time at St. Andrews School as well as running events for children and families in the area. We hope this trip will encourage and challenge every member of the team, and will help them to grow in confidence in their faith.

We ask for your prayers for safe travel and that we will be used to the Glory of God while we are there.



Rev. Elizabeth Cairns - Rector of Mullavilly (Diocese of Armagh)
Team: Matthew Walsh, Anna Neill, Chloe McKitterick, Adam Magian
(and Hannah Cadden from Seagoe Parish who is not in this photo)

Strabane to Lima

As Summer 2017 approaches, plans are well underway for another team from Strabane to go to Lima, Peru. Flights are booked, accommodation being sorted, Sterling changed to Peruvian Sol, lists of what to take with us (and what not take) etc. Exciting times are ahead. Some of the team are returning for their 2nd time to Peru and some of the team are first timers. So I thought it would be good to ask two of them a couple of questions, so I have picked on Heather and Emma.

In going to Peru this year what are you most looking forward too?

Emma: I am looking forward to seeing all the people we met two years ago. Also seeing how those who came to know Jesus during our last trip are growing in their faith.

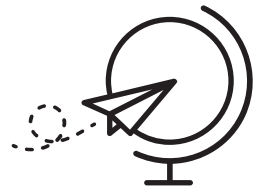
Heather: I feel excited about going. I am looking forward to meeting all the people that I have heard about and seeing how they live day to day. Oh and of course crossing the equator for the first time!

What are you most worried about?

Emma: As I have been before, I know what to expect so I'm not really worried about the trip.

Heather: Mark, I am scared witless!!! I am worried about everything e.g. Will I fit in? What use will I be?

So as our final preparations take place, please keep, Emma, Heather, Joanne, Rachel, Ruth, Sammy and me (Rev. Mark Lennox) in your prayers.



Lima to Hollywood



I arrived in Northern Ireland mid-March to start my year as a SAMS FUSION Volunteer at St. Philip and St. James Church in Holywood. One thing I noticed when I first arrived in Northern Ireland was how everything is green and very beautiful! I spent my first two weeks with Chris and Hannah Agnew, who speak Spanish and helped me in the time of adaptation. It's been good to see Bishop Ken again, to talk and pray for my time here and enjoy his humour. Gillian is helping me a lot, organising my papers, transporting me and having time to talk and pray.

Although the weather was very cold when I arrived, it's nice to have so many warm people in the church, and to have time with the team to pray and talk every week. I have accompanied Rector Gareth Harron visiting church and community activities to see what I can get

involved with and how I can serve best. I have started to help with young people, children, and teaching Spanish.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For continuing to learn English and communicate better.
- For the Church of St. Philip and St. James and the Staff:
- The Rector Gareth, the Curate Rev. Geoffrey, Pauline, Paul and Josh.
- For Jackie Mitchell, my new family with whom I live.
- For the Synod in Peru, for wisdom by our Bishop Jorge Aguilar and all the representatives in the Church of Peru.



At the end of May a team from the Diocese of Northern Argentina (partnered with the Diocese of Down and Dromore) spent a week in Northern Ireland.

They spent a few days based in Strabane Parish and saw something of life and witness in a provincial town. They learned about mission and ministry in urban East Belfast through the hospitality of Willowfield Parish. Archdeacon Hugo Vergara was interviewed at a Rural Deanery Service in St Katharine's, in north Belfast.

They also spent some time at the Exodus base in Lisburn to see first hand an exciting and fruitful model of youth ministry where the aim is to make life long disciple makers. Altogether it was a worthwhile time and helped deepen links with, and resource ministry in, the Diocese of Northern Argentina.

The members of the team were: *Archdeacon Hugo Vergara, Teresa Perez, Dany Lescano, Flavia Vergara, Sofi Lescano, Feliciano Navarro de Haz, Gabriela Arenas, Roberto Garcia and Cintia Chaile.*



humble explorers

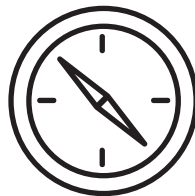
by Chris & Hannah Agnew

Lima, Peru

September 2017 - July 2018

Eugene Peterson writes in *The Jesus Way*, "There are no experts in the company of Jesus, only humble explorers". As we have explored the possibility of serving in Peru it has been and continues to be a regular journey of returning to the place of simply following Jesus one step at a time.

We met while studying medicine and languages respectively at Queen's University, Belfast, with a shared love of mission and Latin America playing a significant role in our relationship. Having both served separately in Peru, Nicaragua and Cuba on short-term teams and placements, our desire was to serve in Latin America together as a married couple.



However, illness and jobs led us down a different path. Hannah established a career teaching French and Spanish while Chris moved careers to work with Exodus (a youth organisation committed to serving local churches in disciple making youth ministry). Through Exodus we have had the privilege of leading short-term youth teams to serve the church in Spain, which have taught us a lot about discipleship and mission.

Meanwhile the Diocese of Peru has been seeking growth in faith, both in depth and width, with a specific focus over the last year on researching discipleship in Peruvian churches. The findings have opened the door for diocesan staff to develop and share a holistic approach to making disciples. Alongside this there are two Compassion projects connected to the Anglican church in Lima which provide education, nutritional meals and assistance to some of the poorest children in the area. It was this unique combination of mission and discipleship alongside education and compassion that stirred our hearts and prompted us to take a step of faith.



PRAYER POINTS INCLUDE:

- Chris learning Spanish through study and conversation.
- That relationships would flourish and that we would feel part of the team of gospel workers there.
- That we can settle quickly into a rhythm of life, prioritising devotion to Jesus first and then investment in the different ministry initiatives that we get involved in.
- For the Anglican church there, that God would move in this time of transition, that we would see people come to faith and be discipled in the local church.
- We hope that our passions and gifts will be of use to the Diocesan team, but ultimately our desire is to serve where we are needed. As we "humbly explore" this next step in Peru, we are excited and expectant for what God has in store.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

by Phil Tadman, SAMS Treasurer

We have recently completed the 2016 annual accounts of SAMS, which has highlighted the importance of voluntary income to the Society. We are grateful to all who give to SAMS, monthly or less frequently, directly or indirectly, perhaps as a member of a SAMS supporting parish, or as a decision maker for a Trust, Partnership, Company or other organisation able to support the work of Christian charities. Over 95% of the income SAMS received during 2016 was voluntary income, including tax repaid to the Society as a result of donations made to SAMS by people who have signed a valid Gift Aid declaration (GAD). Signing a GAD should be considered by people who pay income or capital gains tax as it increases the value of a donation to SAMS by 25%. A GAD form is available from the SAMS website

www.samsukireland.com or from the SAMS office. Thankfully in this General Election year in the UK, there does not seem to be a manifesto that includes the demise of Gift Aid or the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), which indicates a recognition of the value of work carried out by charities going forward.

We take this opportunity to also thank those who remember both the financial needs, and the stewardship of resources entrusted to SAMS, in their prayers, as the Society seeks to work out and live out God's mission for the benefit of all, and particularly for those in South America, Iberia, Great Britain and Ireland. Please continue to support SAMS by your prayers and donations.



Is Short-term mission a luxury holiday?

Here are some thoughts from a member of a Mission Paraguay team. She spent 3 weeks in Paraguay.

Did you enjoy your holiday, they will ask. What holiday? I'll say.

Building your own beds;
 Sleeping in a dorm;
 Getting up early;
 Going to bed early;
 Cold showers, cold feet;
 Ant infested bed, broken locks, broken keys;
 Cockroaches, frogs in the sink;
 Lost luggage, forgotten sleeping bag;
 Devastation as only seen in movies;
 Feeling exhausted.
 Some Holiday!!

BUT this will be my response:

Making new friends;
 Meeting old friends;
 Great food prepared with loving hands;
 Worshiping in new ways;
 Going to your limits;
 Receiving more than you can ever give;
 Teaching for a better life to learn to be a better you;
 Losing your comfort zone to find a stronger faith;
 Touching people to be touched by them;
 A roller coaster of emotions to count your true blessings;
 This wasn't a holiday.

This was a Mission Paraguay experience - the journey of a lifetime.



Claire Holmes Interviews

Zuny

In Concepcion, Paraguay

Zuny, how did you come to faith in the Lord Jesus?

It began in September 1995, when my friend Norma and I belonged to the 'Red Cross' and were helping with first aid at an agricultural show. Whilst there we made friends with some people who invited us to their church. Some months later, we were working in a shop and a work colleague invited us to that same church and we went with her. She introduced us to Bishop

Andres, pastor of the church, and his wife Estela. They talked to us about Jesus, and it was then that I put my faith in Him, and asked Him into my life. Even when the battles were really strong and I wanted to give up, the Lord has always been with me, has lifted me up, and my spiritual family have helped me to keep going.

In February 2017 you were in Ecuador. Tell us why you were there?

Recently with Claire and Bryan Thompson I was trained in 'Simply the Story (STS)', an oral method of learning and sharing the Bible with others. For the first time I was able to learn and remember the Bible Stories in more depth, and to discover more about God's plans for my life. I always had the desire to help others learn more about God and know Him more, and STS has given me a tool and an opportunity to do this, in Paraguay and now also in Ecuador. At the time of the earthquake in Ecuador in 2016 our church raised some money to send out to help those who had been affected by it. God put in my heart the desire to go to Ecuador and I couldn't believe it when the door opened up to help deliver an STS workshop.

What are some of your most important memories from that time?

Apart from eating worms for the first time?! The area was amazing, but the most important memory is the testimony of the people there,

especially those from the Amazon area where we did the course and the testimony and example of Hannah, the missionary who hosted the workshop. We (Lorena who also went from Concepcion and myself) really felt as if we were amongst family. Although I missed my children, it was encouraging to see the work they do with children, and to use my experience working with children, to help train the children who attended the workshop. It was great to see their enthusiasm and desire to know Jesus better and to learn more about him.

As we pray for the church in Concepcion please share with us some topics for prayer.

Thank you for your prayers. Please pray for strength for us, that we will trust in the Lord, stand firm, and be constant. Pray we will be able to serve the Lord more and more, fearlessly tell others about him and equip them to faithfully serve the Lord.

Prayer Points

Summer Teams

Strabane to Lima in July 2017
Mullavilly to Asuncion July 2017
Mission Paraguay July 2017

South American Volunteers

Lizbeth Varillas (Peru) serving in Hollywood Parish
Natalia Bustos (Chile) serving with Rev Danny Morrison in Ipswich

Volunteers in South America

Hannah Cadden in Paraguay (*July - August 2017*)
Melissa Newell in Concepcion, Paraguay (*August 17 - January 18*)
Rachel Buchanan in Concepcion, Paraguay (*August 17 - January 18*)
Chris & Hannah Agnew in Lima, Peru (*September 17 - July 18*)

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: info@samsukireland.com

W: www.samsukireland.com

F: www.facebook.com/samsukireland