

BUENA•VISTA

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SAMS
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MISSIONAL ○ RELATIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL



The Second Fiddle

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



“It takes more grace than tongue can tell to play the second fiddle well!”

These words were spoken to me recently and I had never heard them before. I thought they were brilliant and the more I thought about them the more I recognise that the story of Christian mission and Christian ministry is so often the story of men and women called by God who were willing and open to be used by Him as second fiddles. Not for them their

names in the headlines. Not for them the spotlight nor centre stage! Not for them celebrity status. Rather their lives were lived for Jesus...working out and living out His call on their lives.

The growth of the Church in the Acts of the Apostles is a classic example of this. So much of the spontaneous substantial and sustained growth of the church happened through the second and third “fiddles” as well as through the big name people like Peter and Paul.

"And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." **Acts 8:1**

It is important to note that the apostles were not a part of this significant missional movement.

They were still in Jerusalem.

"Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word." **Acts 8:4**

There has been considerable misunderstanding about this last phrase and many people think that they went about preaching sermons. Sermons certainly were preached and are an important priority in the life of the Church but John Stott clarifies the real meaning in this context of "preaching the word." "The statement they "preached the word" is misleading; the Greek expression does not necessarily mean more than "shared the good news."

Every disciple of Jesus Christ is called to share the good news. It is believed. It is proclaimed. It is lived. It is shared.

Isn't it interesting that this missional movement was birthed in a period of persecution? Many are beginning to realise that in many parts of the world, not just through

ISIS, Christians are persecuted. We need to remember Acts 8.

John Stott says, "What is plain is that the devil (who lurks behind all persecution of the church) over-reached himself. His attack had the opposite effect to what he intended. Instead of smothering the Gospel, persecution succeeded only in spreading it."

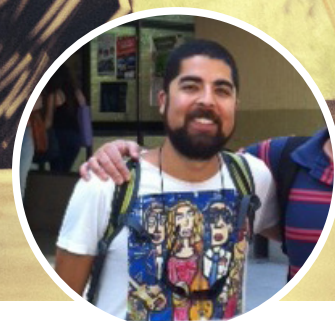
Pastor Warren Wiersbe says, "Persecution does to the church what wind does to seed: it scatters it and only produces a greater harvest." Nothing will stop God's mission, not even persecution. The wind just increases the flame, not smother it. Persecution does not hinder, but helps God to accomplish His plans. The church father Tertullian said, "The more you mow us down, the more we grow. The blood of the martyrs is seed."

Please pray that across the world, not least in South America, the wind of God's Holy Spirit will fan the flames and that we will play our part, fully and wholeheartedly, whether we are first or second fiddles!

Bishop Ken Clarke

Diego Portales University

Maximiliano Díaz works amongst students in the centre of Santiago, Chile



Tell us something about your work.

Recently, I joined the work of GBU Chile (IFES Chile) in Diego Portales University. They have two groups and I helped them by teaching the Bible and discipling students. We went through the book of Colossians and then I trained them on how to understand and teach the Bible to

others. With the second group we did the University Alpha Course, and closed the semester with the “Can I Smoke The Bible?” talk. We are training two committed students to be leaders for the next year. I’m planning to link some students to a two-year ministerial training, called Semillero.

Do you carry any responsibilities outside of the University?

Besides the work in universities, I am in charge of the Office Catapult which is focused on motivating the Anglican Church of Chile to raise up ministry workers. We do bi-weekly devotionals and organise an annual conference called Desafío (Challenge).

The last Conference was in the Anglican church San Pedro of Viña del Mar. We had the opportunity to motivate more than a hundred people to the mission of God in Chile and in the world.

Any Praise Points?

- For this past year in campus ministry.
- For the open doors in Andres Bello, Diego Portales and Santo Tomas universities.
- For all the opportunities to share the gospel with students in the two largest university neighbourhoods of Downtown Santiago.

- Because God has sustained my family with His hand and showed His faithfulness during this time of ministry.

Any Prayer Requests?

- For all our planning that we will be wise and strategic.
- That God may open doors in the universities in República and Ejército university neighbourhoods.
- That God may give us creativity and love to share the gospel with students in the next year.
- That God may give us deeper relationships and friendships with students in the upcoming year.
- Pray for Felipe, a psychology student, and for Sebastian Ramirez, a law student, both at Diego Portales University. They will help me as leaders in campus ministry.

(In faith SAMS has committed to supporting Max for 3 years)



ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

By Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern

How long have you been serving in Paraguay?

A long time! Mags has been here for 30 years on April 25th. Gwen has been here for 32 years.

What are some of your present responsibilities?

Mags is deputy head and coordinating all things to do with technology. She also teaches maths in the secondary school teaching the pupils from 7th to 12th grade and preparing them

for IGCSE maths exams and also for the AS exam. In between lessons she helps in discipline and attends meetings with staff and parents.

Gwen is head of school and this involves having a finger in every area of school. She spends some time in the admin side and other times in meetings with the various areas of the school and the annexe school. She also teaches in preschool (5 year olds) for an hour each day.

How many pupils attend St Andrew's College and the

Annexe School and how many staff are in both schools?

We have 378 pupils in the main school and about 120 staff. The staff include office staff, maintenance staff, canteen staff, teachers and helpers. Some staff only teach a few hours a week and others are full time. We try to have quite a number of helpers in classes with the little ones and some of the older classes are divided into smaller groups. In the annexe school we have 220 pupils and about 30 staff although at least 8 of them also teach in the main school. These numbers include cleaning staff, office staff and teachers. Their classes, on the whole, are smaller than in the main school.

We have 141 people on the pay roll, that is, staff from both schools.

What are some of the primary items for prayer at this time as we pray for you and the school?

Pray for our secondary pupils that they might be willing to put Jesus first. They believe in Him but life and peer pressure presses in on them and they get caught up.

Pray for our daily Bible studies, assemblies and camps that they might reach the pupils.

Pray for the little ones who are more ready to believe, that they might remember their commitment to Jesus as they get older.

Pray for the parents.

Our prayer for our pupils is that they might shine as light and be like salt in their country and make a difference.

What has been one of your most recent encouragements?

We are always encouraged when we see ex pupils come back and tell us what they are doing and how they are going on with the Lord.

We have also been encouraged when we see a senator, ex pupil, standing up for Christian values in the government.

We had a lovely Easter service and reading some of the secondary school comments was most encouraging to see what it had meant to them.

CECILIA VALDIVIEZO

Cecilia tells of her experiences as the Redbox Coordinator

What have been some of your encouragements recently?

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8.28) Having that in mind has helped me to see things from different perspectives. I’ve been blessed to see Lilian and Adriana out of the detention centre. They now visit the detention centre with me and share their experiences with the girls and bring hope to them. From the beginning my intention was to sow in their lives and pray to God that He will continue the work, but He blessed me with an opportunity to see the harvest in these girls.

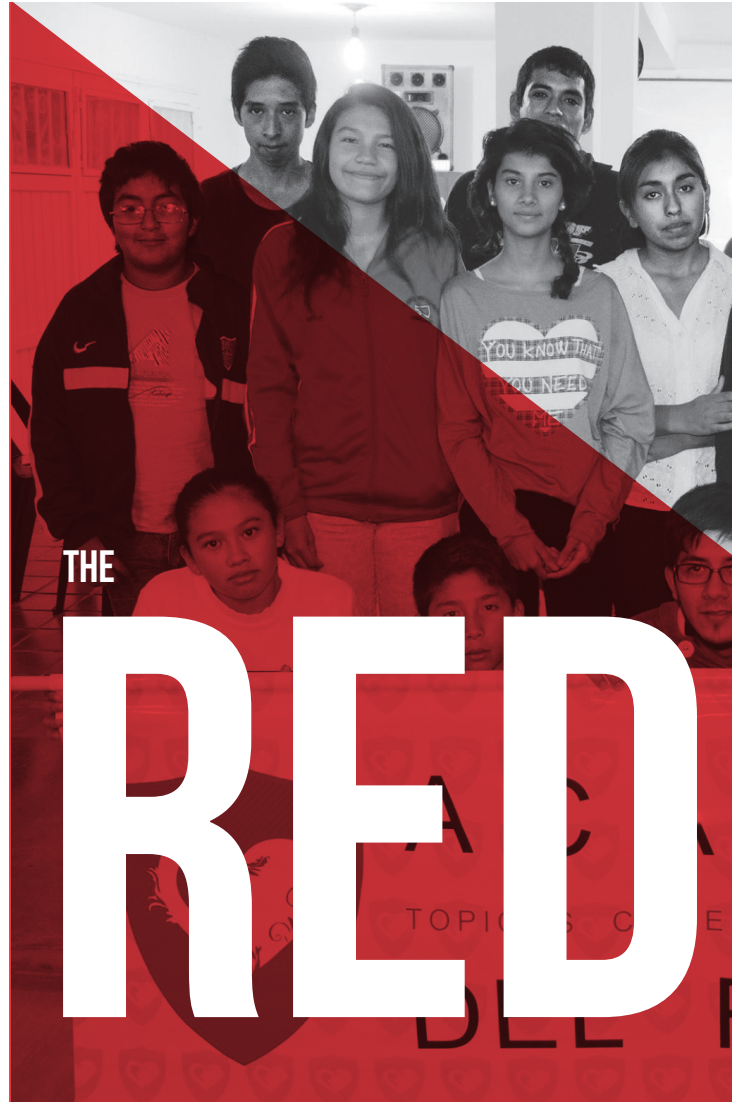
Part of your work is using resources from Romance Academy. Tell us about these and how you’re using them.

Romance Academy is the tool I use to enter into schools, foundations and even the detention centre. The youth have a lot of information, but not real education about sex and sexuality and Romance Academy is a great programme to start doing so. For 14 weeks I share this issue with a small

group. Some pastors heard about it and contacted me to start running the Academy in their churches, the next step is that we are thinking of training leaders so they can do it in their own churches.

At the end of this year, you will be returning to Northern Ireland. What are you looking forward to?

I’m very excited about the idea of coming back to see my family in Christ who support me in so many ways. I pray that my visit will allow me to share a bit about my ministry in Salta and be encouraged together to go on working for the Kingdom.





NATASHA CONWAY

Natasha Conway tells of her experiences as a Redbox volunteer

You have been in Salta with Cecilia since early April 2015, how have you found it?

I can honestly say it has been great! Having extremely limited Spanish is a big challenge but it hasn't hindered how truly welcome I feel both in the church and school communities. I am settling in well and getting used to (successfully) navigating the buses thanks to Cecilia's great maps!

How did your interest in South America begin?

It started in Geography class in school. This sparked an interest to do the Inca trail and see the wonder of Machu Picchu. After achieving this last November, I was blown away by the delights of the culture and the people. I prayed I might go back and here I am!

What kind of things are you doing?

I work in 4 different schools from primary to adult conversation classes, helping with English lessons and building relationships with the pupils. Saturdays are busy with: 'Horas Felices' (Happy hours) for children and 'Adolescents' group at church at night. I visit a detention centre for young girls and also help Cecilia with Romance Academy.

What can we pray for you?

- For overcoming the language barrier
- For forging new friendships with peers
- Building relationships with the young people
- Support for Cecilia with her busy schedule.

Farewell Dany

Daniela Retamal served in Maghera Parish as a Fusion volunteer and returned home to Santiago, Chile in January 2015.



SAMS Fusion completely changed my views about mission and working in a church in Maghera for a year was an important part of this.

First of all, I thought that Mission was just about going to the most dangerous parts in the world.

And that's not true! You are doing mission wherever you are living, in the church that you are attending, and with the people that you relate to.

In my year in Northern Ireland, I also learned how to understand different cultures and how to deal with that, because, of course, sometimes cultural differences can be a problem.

My year as a Fusion volunteer was definitely a good experience that has helped me to be a better missionary.

"I thought that Mission was just about going to the most dangerous parts in the world."

Welcome Rocío

Rocío Castro Bravo is from Santiago, Chile and is currently serving in Jordanstown Parish as our latest Fusion volunteer.

Rocío, tell us about your name.

My name is Rocío Celeste Castro Bravo. "Rocío" has 2 meanings: Rocio means dew drops, and also "someone who spreads grace". "Celeste" means "inhabitant from Heaven". Both of my surnames (Castro & Bravo) are Spanish.

Where in Chile are you from?

I come from Santiago, the capital city and have always lived there. My parents though, come from the North (father) and South-Central area (mother).

Before coming to Northern Ireland, what was your work?

Since 2013 I have worked in a Christian Missionary school for the YWAM Organisation. I felt really passionate about teaching there, as I had opportunities to share my faith. I love seeing how not only students, but families are being changed through this work.

For instance, recently the father

and mother of 2 kids who were not Christians accepted the Lord as their Saviour.



What gifts do you feel God has given you? What areas of ministry do you enjoy being involved in?

I have always had a pastoral call. So, I enjoy listening to people and counselling them in God. God has given me a passionate heart for mission.

I have always loved and befriended people from different cultures and over the last 4 years this calling has become more evident. Also, the Lord has started to develop in me the need for intercession. I enjoy praying for others and knowing that Jesus is most interested than anyone else in serving His children.

Ivan De Lima Gonçalves

Ivan grew up in São Paulo, Brazil. He is currently serving at St. Elizabeth's, Dundonald as a Fusion volunteer.



Ivan, how are you enjoying your time as a Fusion volunteer in St Elizabeth's Parish, Dundonald?

It's been a privilege and joy to be part of St. Elizabeth's, an ordinary church that in God's providence is fulfilling its purpose in sharing Jesus Christ to the Community. My enjoyment here is to be part of this movement where we introduce people to the living God, encouraging them to consider Him and what He has done on the cross for sinners.

In St. Elizabeth's, there are plenty of opportunities to serve and I've had the privilege of being involved in so many areas of ministry in my time here.

Where is home for you in South America and why did you come to Ireland?

Home in South America is São Paulo, Brazil. I arrived in Ireland a few years ago to study English

for 6 months but of course in God's providence things changed completely.

Share with us 2 important lessons you've learnt during your time in Dundonald.

1. Be realistic with changes. Moving to a new culture is something that needs to be thought through and takes time to adapt to new circumstances.
2. The Gospel is the answer for any context and culture.

What are your plans for the future?

I've been accepted into George Whitefield College in South Africa. I'm hoping to do the BA in Theology (3 years) Starting Jan/2016.

I'm hoping to return to Brazil afterwards for future ordination as well as to serve in pastoral work, equipping the church and making disciples for the future generation.

GILLIAN IN PARAGUAY



Gillian Neill is the SAMS Administrative & Communications Co-ordinator. She will be in Paraguay with Claire Holmes from 12th June - 1st July

You have been on the SAMS staff now since November 2013, how has it been for you?

Great! I've always had an interest in South America and the work of SAMS. I love being able to keep in contact with the missionaries that SAMS are linked with in South America and all the SAMS supporters in the UK & Ireland. I am so thankful to be in a job that I'm so passionate about, and to work alongside such lovely people.

How did your interest in South America start?

I grew up hearing about the work of SAMS from a young age through my parents. My brother went on a short-term mission trip with SAMS about 10 years ago and I remember being fascinated with his stories and photographs. It was a few years ago when I felt

God really calling me into the field of mission and that's when I went to Paraguay for 5 months in April 2013.

Right now, you are in Concepcion, Paraguay with Claire Holmes. What are some of your lasting impressions of your 5 months living there in 2013?

My time in Concepcion was so special. From the moment I arrived I felt so welcome. I felt a real connection with the people there. I grew very close to the church in Concepcion and really enjoyed spending time at the different kids clubs each week. Also seeing how God is working in the church and in the lives of the young people who are growing up to help and serve in the church. Of course the empanadas were pretty good too!

CONCEPCIÓN CALLING

A message from Claire Holmes



Recently we had a youth evangelistic event in an area of Concepcion called Ramonita where we have a church plant. It was a really good day with about 50 young people attending and our own young people leading most of it. There was fun, games, food, Christian music by the youth music group and an evangelistic talk on the rich young man who made the decision to put his wealth before following Jesus. The next day I met one of the young people, Hugo, who has started coming to the meetings in Ramonita. He lives with his older sister as his mum is in Spain and his dad isn't around. When I asked him if he had a good day at the youth event,

his face lit up and he said 'yes, I gave my life to Jesus. It was a really good day.' It reminded me again of what is really important - 'go and make disciples.'

Now we will continue to teach him and the others who also made that same decision. Among them are 3 brothers who have recently moved to the area. Their mum has left them. Over a few weeks they have kept getting closer - Standing first at the gate, then at the door, then coming for the first part when we play volleyball and then coming to stay for the whole meeting.

It has been encouraging over these months to see some of the young people despite many

battles, growing, taking more responsibility and using their gifts. We are praying that God will continue to raise up leaders to work with children, young people and adults.

The church continues to be in a time of change after the retirement of Bishop Andrés as pastor. The church council is keeping things going in the absence of a pastor and on 13th June we hold our church assembly. The new church council will be elected and hopefully also a family to come and live on site at the church alongside me.

Over the next few months we are hosting different teams and volunteers which is always such a blessing and encouragement for the church and for those who come. We are very much looking forward to the presence of each volunteer, the team from Mission Paraguay, and the church flute band team who will be doing practical work and also using their musical skills and abilities in many different ways. Exciting months ahead!

Thank you for your partnership in mission!



Some of the young people at a youth evangelistic event in an area of Concepcion called Ramonita.

PRAYER POINTS

Natasha serving in Salta, for her Spanish & building relationships

Cecilia Valdiviezo the Red Box Coordinator

Dany Retamal in Chile for clear guidance as to her future

Ivan in his time of training in St Elizabeth's, Dundonald

Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern in their roles in St Andrew's College

Claire Holmes and the many visitors that she will be hosting in the coming months

Rev Willie Orr and the team from Muckamore Parish going to Concepcion 16th-31st July

Rocío Castro Bravo as she settles into life in Jordanstown

Max Díaz in Chile and his ministries with students

Gillian Neill for protection as she travels to Concepcion in June

The team from **Strabane Parish** going to Lima, Peru 16th - 30th July and their leaders **Rev**

Mark Lennox, Elaine and Barrie Colgan

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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