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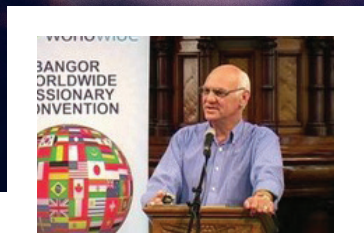
BUENA VISTA

WINTER EDITION 2018

SAMS
UK & IRELAND
South American Mission Society

Going Out. Reporting Back.

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



"The only evidence of life is a cough!" This is how one previous Archbishop of Canterbury described some churches. "Dull, boring, lifeless" are words which are sometimes used when people describe experiences of worship.

Nothing could be further from the truth when we look at worship in the Church in

Antioch. What an inspirational model of mission we see there!

"While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off." Acts 13:2-3

As they worshipped they listened and knew beyond a shadow of doubt that the Lord was calling 2 of their most gifted members to go out on cross-cultural mission.

Sent Out

In response to the Holy Spirit's promptings and in obedience to God's call the Church sent them out. With the prayers love encouragement and support of the local church these mission partners, Saul and Barnabas, were sent out. What a model! Cross cultural mission is still God's priority and still happens today. Some are sent out on long term mission and others on short term mission. There is still a need for both and that need will continue until Jesus returns.

Reporting Back

Having gone out and served faithfully, witnessed God at work and planted churches they returned to Antioch and shared the good news of what God had done.

"From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of

God for the work they had now completed. On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 14:26-27

Can you imagine how encouraged the church was to hear these good news stories? The Church that sent them out now receives them back and shares their joy.

As you read this Buena Vista may you be encouraged and inspired at what God is doing through your prayers encouragement and support. Thank you for your partnership in His Mission! May 2018 be another year of Christian living and giving!

Bishop Ken Clarke



STRABANE

TO LIMA, PERU

On the 14th July 2017, seven people from Christ Church Strabane began the long journey to Lima, Peru. For some it was their first trip to work at Cristo Redentor and San Pedro.

We painted the church building at San Pedro and created a mural inside the church gates. Our congregation and friends generously donated gifts, including knitted jumpers, Spanish Bibles and cuddly toys.

The most humbling experiences came from meeting people. Whether it was the police captain who shared her vision to make the police a close-knit family, or Norma and Julio whose obedience to God's call saw them turn their home into a school.

The story of Sullie impacted all of us. Every day she came to San Pedro church with her youngest child strapped to her back and helped to paint and shared her story.

She left her home in the mountains to escape a violent partner who had tried to kill her. She came to Lima hoping to hide. Her current partner is distrustful of the church and gets angry when she attends. Despite this, Sullie's faith is strong and growing.

Her story touched us all. Here was a woman who was fully relying on God. Her ability to care for others despite her own problems was an incredible witness. We gave Sullie a Bible and when we returned, she had an amazing story. Her partner had come to visit while she was reading her Bible. He was interested in where she got it, why the people from Ireland were here and he asked her to read some of the Bible to him!

During our trip, we saw so many signs that God is moving. We went hoping to help the people but none of us expected to be so blessed by those people and their faith.



Cristóbal Cerón

Cristóbal, tell us about your family.

I'm married to a wonderful and beautiful woman called Alejandra. We have 3 joyful and loving girls.

How long have you been in ministry?

I was ordained in 2009 as a Deacon and 2011 as a Pastor. At the beginning of my ministry I was mainly focused on Youth Ministry. Then, the Lord led us to plant an urban church in Downtown Santiago. Since then, my main area of ministry has been pastoring a congregation called St James the Apostle. I also lead a non-denominational Gospel non-profit Trust that aims to train and equip people for evangelism and basic discipleship in their everyday life. I also have responsibilities in our Anglican Theological College.

What are the biggest challenges for the church in Chile?

I think the biggest challenge is to raise new Gospel workers to plant new churches or to help revive old ones that need encouragement. I think churches are key to transforming cities and sending missionaries. In Chile, one of our greatest needs is that God may raise up more Gospel workers who plant local churches that are faithful to the Gospel in the power of the Spirit.

Editors Comment: Cristobal is the main speaker at Friday Night Live 2018



SAMS News

Celebrating news from the SAMS family



Warmest congratulations to Pen and Luke in Santiago, Chile on the birth of baby Emily.



Warmest congratulations to newly marrieds Ali (nee Crawford) and Michael Hutchinson.



Warmest congratulations to newly marrieds Gillian (nee Neill) and Wilson Lynn.

BUENA VISTA WINTER 2018

Lizbeth Varillas

For the last few months I've been serving in Holywood Parish Church. For a while I was thinking too much about how to serve in Ireland and so I started to spend more time enjoying the ministry. I reminded myself that God has sent me here and to be in His will is the best place. As a missionary away from home, it is so important to love the people around us, the people in the church, and new friends who have become my family. In my second month as I was doing my devotionals God gave me this verse, Ephesians 2:19 "That is why you are no longer foreigners and outsiders but citizens together with God's people and members of God's family".

Sometimes sad things happen...Two weeks ago a couple of church friends from England, who arrived in the Parish when I did, were involved in a car accident. My friend Polly died. Her husband Dave and child Bethan survived. They don't have family in Northern Ireland, but Gareth, our Vicar has given wonderful pastoral care. I am thankful to God for Polly who was a woman who loved God and we know she is with Him. Please pray for her family.

Lizbeth Varillas

Taste & See



by **Chris & Hannah Agnew**
Lima, Peru

In Jeremiah 1:13 God asks Jeremiah "What do you see?", and in John 1:42, Jesus declares "You are Simon...you will be Peter", and in doing so profoundly and prophetically states what he sees in Peter - the rock on which he would build His church. Both are verses about vision; an invitation to see what God sees, and a declaration of what can be envisioned through the grace of God.

We have been in Peru for just over 2 months, and so far have visited 23 churches, 4 schools, three Compassion projects, one centre for people with disabilities and met an incredible variety of people along the way. We have seen some breathtaking scenery including stunning views of the Andes mountain range, condors soaring over the Colca Canyon and the highest navigable lake in the world, Lake Titicaca. We have travelled on more buses than we can count (or keep track of where they all go!), been in five moto-taxis and are very thankful that neither of us have to drive around this city (Lima)! We have "seen" a lot, and yet are continually confronted with these same questions - *what does God see, and what does He envision?*

The Diocese of Peru is in a time of transition, and it is exciting to be partnering in service amidst this. There is a genuine heart for depth and for passion, for moments of encounter to be pursued and a culture of discipleship developed. There are pastors who have served faithfully for years, and there are young followers hungry to grow in their walk of faith.

While we are involved in delivering an Alpha course, training and serving with youth leaders, developing worship ministry, teaching French (!), building a library, learning Spanish and translating at a medical mission campaign, mission is fundamentally all about relationship. Jesus demonstrated this with His life, death, resurrection and sending of the Holy Spirit, and as we seek to do all these things, we see, and know, that relationships are central to fruitfulness. We see a body of people, the church, who we have the opportunity and privilege of building relationships with, in the hope that as we do this, all of us will be encouraged and inspired to follow Jesus that little bit closer.

At our recent Youth Ministry retreat we were drawn to Psalm 34:8a, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Our prayer is that all of us here in Peru would have new encounters with Him, to experience a fresh taste of His presence and a fresh vision of His goodness. Thank you for your prayers and partnership in the gospel!



From left to right: Bishop Fanta Clarke, Mikey Blakeley, Anna Neill, Hannah Cadden, Chloe McKittrick, Rev. Elizabeth Cairns, Adam Magowan and Matthew Walsh.

At midnight on the 14th July, the Mullavilly Team began the 30 hour journey to Asunción in Paraguay, that would take them via Dublin, Amsterdam and São Paulo. We arrived exhausted but excited and were met by Pastor Ronnie Irene and some of his friends.

Ronnie, Nicky and their family were our hosts - it was like 'Cheaper by the Dozen'.. 6 of them and 6 of us - and great fun. We visited the Cateura shanty town where we were able to bring much

needed supplies to the Fundacion CONIN for the malnourished children who live on the rubbish dump. CONIN is a 'light' in a very difficult place that brings hope and help to those in greatest need.

One of the most moving visits was to Jardin de Esperanza, which was a home for orphaned children and those who have HIV. There we experienced unconditional love for the abandoned and unwanted. We saw joy on children's faces as we gave them gifts.

We spent one of our last days with children in the Mission Esperanza Home, another powerful example of loving and caring for children.

We also visited San Andres College where Ronnie and Nicky teach. Three of our 17 year old team members enjoyed experiencing school in Paraguay. San Andres College supports 'The Annexe School', which provides education for much poorer children from the local shanty town. The Principal and staff do an amazing work alongside Pastor Donald Brooks who visited Mullavilly two years ago.

So, with visits made, children played with, gifts given out, services preached or spoken at in St. Andrew's and the Cathedral, Bible Studies and prayer meetings attended (even an all-night prayer meeting), lots of food consumed and new friends made, and a visit to end our time at the amazing Iguazu Falls in Brazil, which took our breath away, our visit of almost 3 weeks came to an end.

Team Reflections



'My time in Paraguay was a humbling, educational and life-changing experience'

ANNA NEILL



'An opportunity where God showed his love and his plan for me and my life.'

MATTHEW WALSH



'Even those who had very little gave all they had. Since returning home I am a more grateful person.'

CHLOE MCKITTERICK



'My eyes were opened to the importance of sharing the Gospel with others in practical ways'

HANNAH CADDEN



'We got to catch a glimpse of God's work in action.'

ADAM MAGOWAN



BEEKEEPING PROJECT

BY CHRIS HAWKSBEЕ

We started this project in September 2015, firstly to help church members in ten villages in the La Patria Settlement. La Patria is the name of a tract of land the Anglican Church bought back in 1983 at the request of numerous small Christian congregations who lived on ranches in the Paraguayan Chaco, but had no land of their own. One of the most successful enterprises in the last 34 years has been beekeeping. Like many projects the people need help to start up and then need a market for selling their honey.

From the outset I announced that this project would be in credit. I set a price for each hive they received at 16 litres of honey, this is cost price, without transport costs. They pay back 8 litres in the first harvest and 8 in the second. Once they have paid this off they are free to sell the production to whom they like... usually to travelling sales-people.

I distributed 100 hives in ten villages, benefitting 100 families. Some hives are well looked after. Others have had to be reloaded several times with wild swarms before the bees settled into their new homes. Pastor Agripino who himself keeps bees helps them and reminds them of their commitments. Part of the objective of this project was to in-still in peoples minds the need to be good stewards of what they have received and multiply it to produce a source of income. From the sale of honey received in lieu of credit payment, we have bought and helped another twenty families and intend to continue this process. Please remember Pastor Agripino in your prayers. He feels very strongly the need for all the Christians to be good stewards.

Editors comment: We sincerely thank the Church of Ireland's Bishops Appeal for generous financial help with this project.



Mission Paraguay

We met Catalina in July 2016 when Pastor Luis asked for our assistance to improve her housing situation. She lived with her family in a wooden hut with earth floors. When it rained, water from higher ground ran through her home bringing frogs and debris. She had saved to build brick walls for a new single roomed home but could not progress. Mission Paraguay paid for a roof, concrete floor, door and window which Raymond, Andrew, William and Andrew (builders from Annaghmore church) fitted before going to construct a church in North West Paraguay. When the Mission Paraguay team from England visited this year Catalina

had painted her new home, saved to install electricity, built entrance steps and begun to construct a brick toilet to replace a doorless wooden hut. It was a joy for us to supply new toilet fittings and plumbing to assist her. The church at Zeballos Cue works in some of the poorest areas of Asunción and this was one of the self-help home improvements we funded this year for local church members. We praise God for our South American brothers and sisters. Please pray for the builders from Annaghmore as they prepare to return next year to build another church in the Paraguayan Chaco.

David Orritt



NI to Paraguay

Melissa and Rachel have been serving in Concepción alongside Claire Holmes since mid-August 2017 and will return home mid-January 2018.

Busy, loud, crazy. And that's just Concepción! Surrounded by teenagers or children at any of the meetings can be equally busy, loud and crazy, but very rewarding as we witness the growth of their knowledge of and relationship with God. I'm also working with the musicians and spending time discipling some of the young people and young adults in the church. What has really struck me is the fruit of many years of faithful labour as well as the impact of continual and ongoing prayer and support. Many of them started in the children's club and now I have the privilege of helping them develop maturity in their faith.

Melissa Newell

I love Concepción a lot!! We have been involved with lots of kids work, youth work and other activities, it is very busy, but lots of fun. From the very first day we arrived we have met so many people, who are all so friendly, welcoming and made settling in so quick and easy. One of my highlights has been the kids clubs. I love seeing how so many kids come each week and are so excited and enthusiastic about coming. Since I can't really speak much Spanish, one thing I love is just sitting and spending time playing with the kids. We all have so many opportunities to share God's love with them practically as well as teach them His word.

Rachel Buchanan

Concepción Calling

'The Gospel is only good news if it gets there on time.'



This challenging quote which I read recently, reminded me of the urgency of mission, and as a church we have been thinking of how we can look out and reach out missionally, both locally and worldwide. Over the last months it's been inspiring to see once more, the different parts people play in mission.

In July and August it was a great encouragement to have visitors from the UK - Noel Boyd, Hannah Cadden and people from 'Mission Paraguay.' Currently Melissa Newell and Rachel Buchanan are serving here for five months, and it's such a massive support having them here, Rachel in helping with the little children whose faces light up when they see her, and Melissa in teaching children and

young people and helping with the music. It's great to see people use their gifts in the building of God's Kingdom.

In January Bryan and Ami Thompson are coming from Ireland to help deliver the 'Simply the Story' Bible training workshop, in Asuncion. The first part of the training will be attended largely by leaders, who will then help train the young people who come for the second part. A team from Concepción will be part of the team of trainers and throughout the year we have been preparing for this training in Paraguay and in other Latin American countries as well. Thank you so much for all your support and prayers.

Claire Holmes

