

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL

# BUENA VISTA

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**SAMS**  
UK & IRELAND  
South American Mission Society

# Something Up There

*a message from the SAMS Mission Director*



Have you ever wondered what was up there? Sometimes small children can be seen pointing up towards a building, a tree or perhaps a small animal... Something up there, something that has made them curious... Then after a few seconds, they either turn away and resume their walk OR they walk towards the thing that has grabbed their attention to make further enquiry.

I have been curious in all sorts of ways since taking up the post as Mission

Director at SAMS Ireland. I have been wondering a lot about what it is that has made SAMS 'tick' over the years. I have had the privilege to see first hand the final diary entry that was made by SAMS founder, Captain Allen Gardiner on 5th September 1851 before he died. I was curious to discover why one man was so driven in his desire to reach the native Indians in Patagonia. Jumping many years later, reading books penned by SAMS missionaries, once again heightened my inquisitiveness.

Why did they go? How did they make their big decisions? What motivated them through some very difficult days? As I have looked at photos, seen smiling joyful faces, people collaborating with each other down the 150 years of SAMS, I have wondered afresh about what is behind it all.

So, while I was wondering about this in Chile, at the Inauguration weekend (see later article) at the beginning of November, I had a curious mountain moment. I decided to go up there, to see the mountains and be in them. Our tour up the Maipo Valley passed sleepy villages, popular with Santiago people for weekend escapes, the greenery gradually slipped away and was replaced by a rugged lunar terrain. A cry went up as curious, wandering eyes spotted the lazy effortless upward spiral of the famous Andean condor. "I wonder what he sees way up there..?" I said to myself. I didn't have to wait very long. Up and over the final edge, our eyes were greeted with an awesome spectacle, a glittering turquoise lagoon, with the snow-capped Andes rising above it. Embalse El Yeso is not a natural lake, but a man made dam which supplies

drinking water to a thirsty Santiago. So here was the source of the life giving water, hidden and yet discoverable to those curious people who choose to go up into the mountains.

SAMS is represented by people who have found their Lord and Saviour in Jesus Christ. Responding to his incredible love, is what has made SAMS 'tick'. Their curiosity about such love, led them to be part of God's mission reaching out in love to the people of Latin America. Each one has had to journey to the reservoir of God's abundant love where all their needs and the needs of those around them would be for ever satisfied. In their curiosity they had tapped into the water of life, which flows directly from the throne of God. (Rev 22.1).

This year, I hope we will be a curious people. It seems that the curious find even more of God and His love.

Every Blessing,

**Stephen**  
SAMS Mission Director



# Gwen & Mags

## The Next Chapter



After over 30 years working in St Andrew's College in Asuncion, Paraguay it's now time to return "home"!! In many ways Paraguay is home to us having lived here longer than we have lived in the UK but we'd like to spend more time with family and other friends now. We have seen amazing changes in Paraguay over the years both in the country and in school and we feel very privileged to have been part of it. We are teaching children of our ex pupils and it's great to see families returning.

We are now on the last weeks in school which is always a busy time with exams and reports. Even so, they found time to give us a lovely surprise farewell the other week with all staff, pupils and some parents.

Now, all that's left is to finish well and to help the new head, Carlos de la Sobera, settle in. He started December 3rd. We have a few projects we want to finish in January like making a maths book for pre school. Then we have the whole house to pack up with 30 years of accumulation! We keep putting off even thinking about it!! We hope to fit a holiday in somewhere!

Our aim is to leave here at the end of February and to be in England from March onwards. We will still be on SAMS books for 6 months and in that time we hope to visit all our link churches to thank them for all their support. We'd like to have March free to settle somewhere. We both like the idea of being by the sea after living in a land-locked country for so long! So we will look for somewhere up the Fylde coast.

We know that leaving here won't be easy especially leaving behind our animals. The friend who gave us the dogs will take them back and maybe the cats too. Although we have another offer to look after the oldest cat. We know they'll all be in good hands but we'll miss them as much as we'll miss Paraguay. We'd value your prayers for us and for the school over the next few months.

All we can say to people who think we gave up so much to come here is that we gained more than we could have imagined. God is no debtor and we feel like we have been on a great adventure with Him over these years.

God bless,  
**Gwen and Mags**



## Drilling in La Mora

***"The Wichi have 3 to 4 times higher infant mortality than the average Argentine"***

food is to train local Wichi to do the teaching, in their own language, at their own speed.

Last year we presented a project to drill 20 hand dug water wells and to buy a good mechanical drill that can get to 200 meters depth. A church from Buenos Aires donated a 45 year old truck, we sought support from different sources and now have a good drilling unit. We recently finished our first well (50m depth) at la Mora

Next year it will be 40 years since I came to the Wichi Indian community of Mission Chaqueña to work in social programs through the local church.

For many years I worked to develop strategies to generate genuine income (eg Siwok Crafts), however over the last 10 years it has been to provide better access to ground water. This is used to produce food with efficient use of water (drip irrigation). It's important to note that we work with hunter gatherers and although they used to sow maize and pumpkins in

the forest, most of the effort was short term. This short term feature that is part of their culture works against them in their development process because with very little they can be easily manipulated (all politicians are very happy with this trait!).

Thus people are kept quiet with different handouts (food, money, roofs, etc), however they can't quieten the shameful statistics which show that the Wichi have 3 to 4 times higher infant mortality than the average Argentine. Our strategy to generate needed

Wichi community which was very difficult, but very good training for us. With this water the Indians will be able to produce their own food offering better health, independence and most of all dignity.

Please pray that God can use us to shorten the unacceptable gap between the Wichi and the "criollo" population in matters of health, education, job opportunities and all aspects of life where they are now far behind.

**Alec Deane**

## The next exciting step for the Anglican Church in Chile

The Iglesia Anglicana de Chile - the Anglican Church of Chile - has been inaugurated as the latest province of the Anglican Communion in a service of joy and celebration in the capital, Santiago. On Sunday 4th Nov, 800 people gathered for the Inauguration service and the Installation of its first Primate, Archbishop Héctor Zavala (Tito). Rev Stephen McElhinney travelled to Santiago, Chile to represent SAMS Ireland at this special event.

The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who formalised the new stage of the Anglican Church in the country. It was a historic event for Chile and world Anglicanism, which was held in the Grange school in the city of Santiago and witnessed by archbishops and bishops of provinces from Latin America and beyond. The ceremony was attended by government authorities and religious representatives of other Christian creeds.





# Faithfulness & Favour

*"...they reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith..."*

**Acts 14:27**

It has been a whirlwind four months since we've come home and yet as we reflect on our time in Lima we are filled with thankfulness, so aware of God's faithfulness and His favour.

In June we rounded up two Alpha courses. We celebrated new life in Christ for some, and restored life for many. These groups are seeking how best to continue the work pioneered this year. One story of incredible impact was as Claudia received prayer on the Alpha weekend she felt an intense heat up her neck. When she visited her doctor three days later for an ultrasound, he couldn't find the thyroid tumour they had been monitoring for over a year. Praise the Lord, for He is good! In Claudia's own words, she feels as if she has been given "new life"!

July was filled with hosting two Exodus teams from Lisburn and Holywood Parish. This was a breakneck pace time of ministry: rebuilding homes, praying with

individuals, running women's ministry nights, visiting a prison, engaging in schools outreach and telling the stories of God at work. It was brilliant to see the Peruvians and Irish work together to bring hope to a hurting world, and to see the compassion of God break Irish hearts as they served. The potential of short term mission never ceases to amaze us, as kingdom partnership brings life to everything it touches.

As we journey to Canada to begin theological studies at Regent College in the new year, please join with us in prayer, that we would continue to tell of all that God has done and how he opens doors of faith.

**Chris & Hannah Agnew**





## Brazil 2018: The Right Team in the Right Place!

Having been introduced to SAMS in 1993, by Ken Clarke and Denis Johnston, and to the work on the ground of Monte Horebe Brazil (Mount Horeb) in 1994, John and Phyllis Logan have been working in and for the mission. The practical and prayerful support of the people of Coleraine Parish and elsewhere, has allowed projects to be designed and developed particularly in the areas of education, health and local industry. All of these contribute to Mount Horeb's aim of "helping people to help themselves," the gospel through words and actions.

Whilst this bulletin concentrates upon Monte Horebe's educational programme in the rural area of Caçador (Paraná, Brasil), it should be stated that the mission's work continues to very good effect in the town of Itaperucu itself. The school there is flourishing as are the medical and dental services available to the people of the town. Monte Horebe (Mount Horeb) School in Caçador has entered its 4th year. We are immensely grateful to God for providing a committed team and for guiding the right people to Monte Horebe. Despite the challenges that occur, Suelen, Gisele and

Joanna Rose are women who work in the Caçador community every day. Suelen and Gisele are teachers and Joanna works in general service. All are completely reliable and committed and children know they can attend school each day because this team will be there, even when the roads are virtually impassable. They are, indeed, the right people in the right place!

According to Shia, the pedagogical advisor, *"During the first half of 2018, the students of the MH school in Caçador, showed considerable interest in studying and enjoyed being at school and there was an improvement not only in academic skills but in social skills also"*.

Opportunities can transform lives, and the opportunities offered in Caçador contribute to children enjoying many educational and social activities, a quality diet and personal care, "all washed down with love". Whether in art classes, physical activity, cultural activities, Christian education or any other educational activity, contributions are being made to the creation of self-confident people, valued and loved, who understand their potential and their value and who could become agents of transformation in their own community.

John & Phyllis Logan



### A MESSAGE FROM ABEL FURQUIM, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR MONTE HOREBE:

*John and Phyllis,  
The contributions made by our friends in Northern Ireland are invaluable and continue to have great importance for our work. Please tell those who have Itaperucu on their hearts that we in MH, and the community in general, thank God that you are all part of our team and are helping us towards our goals.*





In July a team from Annaghmore spent three weeks in Paraguay working alongside Chris Hawksbee in Rio Verde and Claire Holmes in Concepción. This was the fifth Annaghmore team to go to South America but for the first time, five girls accompanied Raymond Campbell's building team. The girls travelled first to Concepción, putting all their skills, talents and knowledge to good use. Daily sewing workshops and individual physiotherapy sessions for adults

and young people were provided as well as assisting Claire with her children's clubs and youth activities in six different locations throughout Concepción and beyond. Every day was very full from morning to evening, which is Claire's daily experience: from 7 am to midnight all the time she makes herself available to people in need. Claire's commitment and dedication to the people of Concepción is matched only by their love and respect for her.

After participating in the church service prior to their departure from Concepción, the 2 teams were reunited again in the Chaco. The guys had been busy building a classroom for the local church there as well as getting underway with the main project - the construction of a conference centre. This would allow Pastors to come together from around the Chaco region. New skills were soon acquired by the girls as, after a crash course in brick-laying, the two youngest members of the team, Beth and Hannah, under Raymond's supervision, successfully built one wall of the Centre. Under pressure of time to meet the team's target of completing the build all team members had to get involved on site, apart from Sarah, who once again found her sewing skills in great demand.

A highlight of the mission trip entailed an adventurous and slightly hazardous journey deeper into the Chaco to visit the church community at La Patria, where a previous Annaghmore team had

built a church two years previously. It was a very moving experience for the builders to return and for Dorothy, Annaghmore's Rector, to visit for the first time, to see the work that had been done and to witness a sign with the church's name, made by the team, being erected over the door. It was an honour to be asked to speak to these lovely, yet very shy people.

The team worked extremely hard in very basic conditions, yet good humour and much practical joking prevailed. Not a cross word was spoken in three weeks. Incredibly nobody complained of tiredness. We just had a ball, serving the Lord and His Church together. Unforgettable memories were created. We met some wonderful people with stories that humbled us. We have been inspired by the faith and servant hearts of our partners in mission, Chris Hawksbee and Claire Holmes.





## Concepción Calling

By Claire Holmes

When reading about the life of Jesus, it is noticeable how he paid attention to the crowd, but so often fixed his full attention on one. I love how He is interested in the individual. On Sundays we go to Santa Elisa, an area of the Chaco, where we have a church service with indigenous people. Often there are 80+ people, largely women and children. It came to our attention, that there was an old lady living in the most awful conditions, close to where we meet. She was confined to bed, with bed generally being hard boards as the mattresses we brought her disappeared. There was very little care available to her. Either before or after the meeting, some of the team, especially Zuny and Norma would wash her, give her some nice food and pray with her.

**"No-one is forgotten by Him."**

They always did it with such love and compassion. I often thought when visiting her, of the importance of, and privilege of caring for and sharing God's love with one, with the individual. No-one is forgotten by Him. On different occasions we said,

'imagine closing your eyes in this and opening them in heaven' which she now has.

Every week we spend time with a lot of people, children, young people and adults as

we have meetings and Bible studies in the different churches and annexes. As we meet with these groups we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to love and reach out to each one within the group with God's love and God's Word, and that they will know how important, they are to Him.



## Mission Paraguay

By Chris Hawksbee

In July 2018, we had a visit from the Irish volunteers, Mission Paraguay team. The work in Rio Verde consisted in bricking in the walls of 2 buildings, one a church hall, the other we are using for our Bible and leadership training. Since then, we have concreted the floor. Then just this month we had a visit from the first year of the Colegio San Andres, and I had them paint the brickwork with a silicon weather sealant and also pain the windows and doors. It is looking good now.

We are waiting for funding from one of Tim Curtis's churches who will be donating funds for the electrics, fans, power point projector and laptop. This will be happening later this year. Our church leaders are already asking when our next pastoral retreat will take place. That is encouraging. We hope we

can increase the number of retreats next year. We get more quality time together for studying. We will still visit the churches in the communities.

The honey production continues well, and the beekeepers sell the produce or barter with the travelling sales people. There is a Mennonite group who are now getting involved with the beekeeping. This was my hope a long time ago, but it didn't happen. Now they realise that we have a prime area for honey production and they have started investing in it with equipment and buying honey. This group of Mennonites from a group of churches in Loma Plata already help the communities with soil preparation each year. I encourage the Indian leaders to develop good relationships with the Mennonites because they have good will to help them.





FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

# Generation to Generation

Craigavon Civic Centre  
Friday 1st February 2019 at 7.30pm



## 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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