



BUENA·VISTA

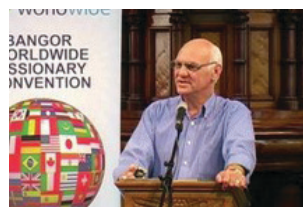
WINTER EDITION 2016

SAMS
UK & IRELAND
South American Mission Society

MISSIONAL ○ RELATIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL

Going for Gold

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



Next summer the focus of the sporting world will be on Rio for the 2016 Olympic Games. Athletes from around the world will gather to aim for the gold! Their whole life will be geared towards personal best performances and winning the gold. This is their goal and their passion. Their intensive preparations will determine their diet, lifestyles, use of time, sleep patterns, their whole lives.

Such dedication and commitment in the world of sport was well known in the Greek and Roman world of

the first Christians. Athletes were physically fit and devoted to being in the best possible physical shape. So St Paul writes these words of wisdom to the young Timothy....

“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for both the present life and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8 He wants Timothy to see a bigger picture, to catch a vision of what really matters above all else. The physical is only about this life but there is an eternal perspective which

is far more important. I find Paul's words stretching and disturbing. They prompt me to ask questions such as ...

- What am I living for?
- Is my life devoted to the temporary or the permanent?
- Am I going for God or am I going for the gold of what is good but not the best?
- Am I playing at being a Christian or is my passion Jesus Christ, His Gospel and His Kingdom?
- Is my Christian life ticking over or is my love for Jesus spilling over in Christ-like mission and selfless ministry?
- Do I have any vision for world-wide mission?

How can we live lives that are about the life to come? I suggest two responses.

OBEDIENCE

Jesus said "If you love me you will keep my commandments." We express our love for Christ by walking paths of obedience.

GENEROSITY

Recently I was chatting with someone who said, "I ask Christians, may I see

2 of your books." (I was thinking that one would be our Bibles to see if we use them) He then said, "If I see your diary and your cheque book I will tell you what kind of Christian you are!" That's a pretty good test! How do we use our time and our money? For purely selfish purchases or to advance His mission?

In SAMS we are looking for 100 DD's...Direct Debiters. This kind of generous consistent monthly giving can be a backbone in a mission agency. Will you be one of them? At Friday Night Live on the 5th February there will be an opportunity to make this commitment. It will be a statement that we recognise the importance of "the life to come."

As one Rector received the offering he was heard to pray..."Lord whatever we may say or do, this is what we think of you."

When we really see God as a God of extravagant generosity then our giving is an expression of our gratitude.

Thank you SAMS supporters for your interest and partnership. We do it for Him!

Bishop Ken Clarke

Diego Portales University

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



Max, tell us about your university ministry.

The university ministry consists in forming "Growing Missional Communities". Our first two are in the República university neighbourhood and in the Ejército university neighbourhood. In addition to this, we are trying to form two more communities in the National Institute of Public Administration of Chile University, and in Central University. Also, together with three more university ministries (including IFES), we are carrying out a series of talks named "IMPULSO" (IMPULSE). The aim is to impact the university through the Gospel and emphasise fullness of life in Christ. We have had several talks, and the third one focused on the idols behind a sexual culture.

Also I am part of the leadership of "Semillero" (Seedbed), which is a

ministry training program, reaching out to university and high school students. The program lasts two years, and in September we finished the first training year with 55 students.

Max, have you any other responsibilities outside of the universities?

Yes I have. I am involved in Office Catapult which is focused on motivating the Anglican Church of Chile to raise up ministry workers. We carry this out by sending bi-weekly devotionals and organising an annual conference named "Desafío" (Challenge).

In August we did our last "Desafío" conference. The theme was "The Great Ambition". We approached the subject with three talks: "The small ambitions of our heart", "The great ambition of God" and "The great ambition of the Church".

We were able to bring 60 people together from different Santiago and Valparaiso churches.

Also at the Congreso Nacional de Jóvenes (Young Anglicans National Congress) earlier this year I gave the devotionals every morning and carried out a workshop of inductive study based on the book of Ecclesiastes, named "Looking for the Sense". CEP (Pastoral Studies Center)

Thirdly, last September, I carried out with Pastor Cristobal Ceron a Course about Chilean culture. It was very short, but very intensive. We explored how to understand the concept of culture and the development of the reformed tradition. We interviewed also, two secular proponents of culture in Chile, and finally the students did an exhibition of the expression of the Chilean culture in music, economics, politics and art.

Max, any items for prayer?

We praise the Lord for:

- His care of us throughout this year. He has given us good family quality time, and provided us a new apartment where we now live.

- My wife, Carolina, is a postgraduate studying university teaching. God has been faithful in sustaining her and by giving her the energy to study, work and care for the family.
- The provision of good leadership in the university ministry. The leaders help me to carry out the monthly targets.
- Giving us good opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in the streets, in every weekly study and in each prayer meeting.

We pray for:

- All the Growing Missional Communities... The provision of good relationships founded in the Gospel, which will help in the reaching of other students.
- My heart and for the heart of the students, that we can remain humble unto the Lord and be hungry for His Word.
- Various outreach events.
- God to give us link-persons, to enter new missional fields in the universities.

BIENVENIDOS

Keep on Marching

*"This was mission -
Flute Band Church style"*



The Paraguayan city of Concepción had never seen anything quite like it! A bunch of men parading through its streets playing hymns in a distinctive style on flutes and drums.

This was mission - Flute Band Church style - and the team of nine from Muckamore Parish found that while they may have made some things structurally better for the community of the Church of San Pablo (St Paul), it was their own lives which were perhaps most deeply touched.

The band made up of four flutes, three side drummers and two base drummers, travelled to Paraguay in July. They were led by the Rev William Orr, Rector of Muckamore, Killead and Gartree.

For the eight days of hard labour, the team achieved a lot. They worked at Villa Alta, where they repaired the outreach centre - repairing a very leaky roof and building a large sheltered patio. They added outdoor lighting and brought plumbing into the toilet so it now has a flushing toilet, a working shower and a hand basin.

Drummer Paul Moorman, a Co-Op Area Manager, said it had been fantastic. "We achieved everything we set out to do," he said.

"For me it was a lot about giving something to people and one of the big eye openers was how they were so appreciative no matter how small a thing you did."

Nearly every day finished with the guys doing a parade, drawing a crowd, and then sharing the Gospel. A far cry from the negative perception of flute bands back in Norn Iron!!!! But at the centre of this trip apart from sharing Christ, were ordinary men and women from Northern Ireland, who just wanted to share, give and serve. Men and women from Paraguay also wanted to share, give and serve us. In that coming together, all of us had our lives changed.

The Rector William Orr says a huge thank you to all the team. I trust that this will be the beginning of ordinary men and women in the future, who love the bands, contributing to the building of His Kingdom for many years to come.

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE



5 months in Salta was certainly an unforgettable experience, including a special 2 weeks in Paraguay. From beginning to end, I was overwhelmed by the kindness demonstrated by my church family in El Redentor. I treasured time with my Bible study group and Sunday school, which allowed time out from a jam packed week of teaching in 5 different schools and Kids clubs! Firm friendships evolved sharing in God's word together via Spanglish of course! Through the challenges and the joys of experiencing new cultures, seriously long bus journeys

and countless empanadas later, the steady flow of new people being introduced into my life was a great blessing; from pastors and their families, the super Claire Holmes, to my sewing teacher Lily - wonderful fresh relationships were created, and friendships were strengthened. I quickly learnt to fully rely on God in the randomness of day to day ventures, which after returning to home comforts has been the most valuable change-the strengthening of faith.



STRABANE TO LIMA!

By Rev Mark Lennox

For seven people from Strabane Parish (plus 3 adopted church members), Summer 2015 will be remembered because of a life changing experience – our trip to Peru. For the last two weeks of July we worked alongside Rev. Anderson Sanchez in his two churches in the city of Lima. While there we painted the outside of a church, worked with the Compassion International Project, visited with people in their homes and ate Guinea Pig! I will let one of the team, Joanne Buchanan (aged 17) tell you a little of her experience.

"Peru was the best 14 days of my life, what I loved the most was the nature of the people, visiting families in their homes, playing with the children and witnessing how life is so different for them, how they have so little and yet they were so happy. Each home we entered had a heart-breaking story to tell but yet their faith and trust in God through it all was so strong."



Rocío Reflects

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

I have been in Northern Ireland since early this year and so far it's been a great time in sharing more personally with God. Also, I've seen my church, Saint Patrick's take new challenges in regards to Mission and Children and Youth. It's been great being part of that!

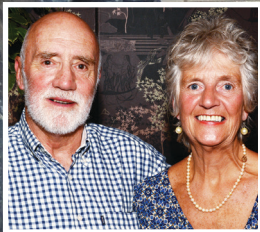
In terms of the culture, I can say it took me a long time to completely settle in, but I do know that throughout the process God has been helping me to adapt. I also know that God is challenging us to pursue more of God's kingdom here.

Finally, close to finishing my period in Northern Ireland I can say that God's confirmation brought me here, when I received Genesis 12:1 and that He has brought His peace in regards to my departure. In this time here I have needed God's strength and vision and it's marvellous how God has answered. He's been talking to me continuously about Christianity and its impact on the whole community instead of Saint Patrick's only. My prayer is that we do bring everything back to God knowing He is the one who is most interested in restoring His very identity on every area of His creation and in our lives.

MONTE HOREBE

B R A Z I L

SO FAR, SO GOOD



Written by John and Phyllis Logan

“So far, so good” is an appropriate phrase to describe Monte Horebe’s work to date in the isolated and impoverished community of Caçador. The school is now well into its first year of operation and pupil numbers have necessitated the employment of a second teacher. In addition to this the former Principal of the main school in the town of Itaperuçu has taken on a monitoring and support role for Caçador. The most recent development has been the donation, by a Norwegian mission based in the city of Curitiba, of school uniforms for all pupils. There was considerable excitement, amongst both children and parents, when the new uniforms were issued.

Another significant development in Caçador has been the setting up of a co-operative venture through which local agricultural produce is processed, packed and then sold in a number of churches in Curitiba. The venture gives employment to 5 or 6 people and already individual families and the community are benefitting.

Everyone is looking forward to improvements in the water supply as the current well does not provide sufficient water. Requests by Monte Horebe that local government and/or state water departments should take responsibility have fallen upon deaf ears. As has happened often before Monte Horebe has in faith taken up the challenge, employed a contractor and has successfully overseen the project. As before, funds are being found to pay for the work.

The numerous volunteers, whose marvellous efforts are changing a community for the better, have a motto: – The Lord is at work here!



CHILE & PERU

What a privilege it was to travel to Chile and Peru recently to spend time with our partners in mission.

The highlights for me were:

- visiting a church in the shanty town area of Lima that had been recently decorated and renovated by the SAMS Ireland team from Strabane
- visiting La Santisima Trinidad (Holy Trinity) school, Lima, and standing in classrooms paid for by SAMS supporting parish Fivemiletown
- visiting a youth prison and being deeply moved by the tender ministry of SAMS prayer partner Rev Anderson Sanchez
- spending time with SAMS sponsored student worker Max Diaz and hearing about his outreach work in Santiago

- talking with the Bishops of the Anglican Church in South America as they told me how blessed they had been through the ministry of our SAMS Mission Director Bishop Ken during their Retreat

- attending a vibrant evening service at La Trinidad Church in Santiago, a church planted by SAMS stalwarts Gordon and Beryl Whitehead, and pastored by Alf Cooper.

It was great to see how the projects that SAMS are supporting are having a huge impact in the lives of so many people. I arrived home encouraged, humbled and blessed.



Andrew Forster
SAMS Chairperson

LA SANTISIMA TRINIDAD SCHOOL

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL LIMA – PERU

Lurgan Rotary Club is heavily involved in supporting charities and worthy causes at local, national and international level. This year they decided that they wanted to support a national project but preferably one with local connections. With that in mind they approached Bishop Ken Clarke, SAMS Mission Director, who had visited their club on a couple of occasions as a guest speaker.

He quickly identified La Santisima Trinidad School as being suited to the criteria for support from Rotary. An application was made for a District Grant to provide computer facilities and educational resources. The application has now been approved and a generous grant received. Financial support has also been secured from both Lurgan Rotary Club and Strabane-Lifford Rotary Club.

In addition donations have also been obtained from a number of local private sources, an American donor, Shankill Parish Church (Lurgan) and SAMS.



CONCEPCIÓN CALLING

A message from Claire Holmes



July and August were exciting months here as two teams from England and Northern Ireland and some volunteers from Ireland came to serve with us. Their ministry included speaking at church and to the youth, distributing glasses (spectacles), helping with 'Children's Day' and the weekly activities with youth and children, plus practical work. One of the teams was a 'Christian Flute Band' from Antrim. Concepcion had never experienced anything like it, as we marched along the high roads and by-roads playing hymns and giving out invitations to the local meetings. They also taught the flute to some young people and did repair and building work (despite blisters, broken toes etc.). Their practical work has hugely improved both the meeting and living conditions in some of our annexes. It's a

huge privilege to work together in teams such as SAMS, supporting churches, the local church and the volunteers. We serve God together in different ways. One of the youngest helpers was a wee 4 year old called Matias. Every morning he was there waiting for the team to arrive so he could work with them. Out of the blue one evening he said to me 'Jesus is my friend now. He's in my heart.'

We were really blessed by another child Ellie-Jane who held a coffee morning (see page 15) to help those in need. As a result we were able to take food parcels to some families who are struggling. For many it was an answer to their prayers. On behalf of those families, thank you to Ellie-Jane and others like her.

Thank you also to SAMS and all those who donated towards a new vehicle for the church here which makes such a difference to the ministry and to visiting our annexes. We now have a new truck which is being

used to visit our annexe in the Chaco and deliver the food packages mentioned earlier.

*Love and blessings from
all of us here.*

Claire



Thank You

Ellie-Jane!

My cousin's ten year old daughter Ellie-Jane Quinn and I were saying her bedtime prayers when she asked God to bless all the little children who were starving in the world and who had nothing to eat. When she had finished her prayers I asked Ellie how she would like to help the starving children. She suggested a bun sale and one thing led to another until we came up with an idea of a coffee morning at my house! Ellie asked if I knew any

missionaries and the name Claire Holmes popped into my head. We had our coffee morning one Saturday, and raised over £700. Claire was able to use this money for a feeding project for children in the Chaco.

Mark 10 v 14 *"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God".*

Lisa Thornbury



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Going For Gold

Craigavon Civic Centre
Friday 5th February 2016
7:30pm

You are warmly invited to Friday Night Live, always a night not to be missed! There are exciting stories of God at work in South America. Refreshments afterwards will give an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. We are delighted that, in addition to special guests, the Rev. Simon Genoe will be our main speaker. Look forward to seeing you!

Bishop Ken Clarke
SAMS Mission Director

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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