



**BUENA·VISTA**

SUMMER EDITION 2014



MISSIONAL ○ RELATIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL



# Team Effort

*a message from the SAMS Mission Director*



On the 13th July the World Cup will be held high by the winning team. No doubt, during the matches in different parts of Brazil, we will see flashes of brilliance by individual players, gifted and shrewd coaching, the world's best footballing talent, but at the end of it all a TEAM will win, not an individual. As someone has wisely said,

*"When you score a goal, you don't do it for yourself, you do it for the team because the name on the front of the shirt is more important than the one on the back."*

The Church of Jesus Christ is God's Team! His Mission is far more important than football, or indeed any other sport. The stakes are high. The work is urgent. There is nothing more important than seeing God's Kingdom come and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven. His will is clear. He is...

“...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Christians are called to be players on His Team...not spectators. We are all part of His plans. We are to declare His wonderful deeds, live as faithful servants and be “fishers of people.” We are in this together. We are to function as a body, the Body of Christ. We are not individual runners in a sprint race; we are team players in God’s eternal plans, in a Divine project that lasts forever.

On the 13th July the world will see the winning footballers but the winning team is much larger than those players. An army of people is involved. Each team has training staff, coaching staff, PR people etc etc. Most of them are never seen. It is the same in churches and in the SAMS family. So much goes on “behind the scenes.” In SAMS we are profoundly grateful to God for all those who serve willingly and faithfully in the SAMS family... many behind the scenes. To all who pray, give, help and serve we say a sincere THANK YOU.

We are always seeking to expand our team of volunteers. If you are willing to help with hospitality, providing transport, welcoming people at airports, magazine production/editing, administration please contact the office via the telephone 028 38310144 or by e mail [info@samsukireland.com](mailto:info@samsukireland.com). Helping, even for a few hours can make a difference.

Someone who has been integral to the SAMS Team for the past 20 years is Geoff Hamilton (Titch!) In September he will commence training for the ordained ministry of the Church of Ireland. Please pray for him and Jill in this new adventure. Thank you Titch for your immense contribution to SAMS. We will miss you. We will pray for you. We are thankful for you.

Play well in His Team!

+ *Ken Clarke*



# CHACO

## THE HAWKSBEES

Chris and Alison serve in Paraguay, the country where Chris was born and grew up. Chris, who is trained in agriculture and development, works with the Indian churches and communities in the Chaco region. Alison works at the Asunción Christian Academy as Academic Director. Chris provides technical advice and training in subsistence level farming and cash cropping so that the indigenous Christian communities can support themselves and continue to live sustainably in these remote areas. He works with several of the 17 ethnic groups in Paraguay.

Now living in Asunción, Chris travels frequently to the Chaco. He negotiates

with the Paraguayan government and NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) to highlight the needs of the indigenous communities in the Chaco. He assists pastors of the Anglican church, encourages groups in Christian discipleship, and advises on agricultural, sustainability and development issues.

Chris visits 6 communities or settlements in the Rio Verde area:

- Makthlawaiya
- La Herencia (ex-Sombrero Pirí)
- El Estribo
- La Patria
- Saria
- Espinillo



Chris & Alison Hawksbee

## PRAYER POINTS

- For Alison in her role as Academic Director at Asunción Christian Academy and the responsibilities of carrying out this demanding role.
- For Alison on her own when Chris is away in the Chaco.
- For Chris and Alison in their involvement with their local church San Andrés.
- For Chris as he combines his preaching and teaching ministry with his role as an agricultural advisor.
- For Chris as he sorts out a charging system using solar panels to recharge batteries.
- Give thanks for resources given to Chris for distribution among indigenous Christian communities. Recently he was able to give out 1000 copies of the audible Bible in one of the native languages, which will complement the Bible studies Chris has been doing in the Chaco.
- Pray for the team from Annaghmore Parish working alongside Chris this summer.
- Please pray for the church in Paraguay. There is a need for more trained pastors, particularly as many are now approaching retirement.



# SANTIAGO

*Interview with Cristóbal & Max*

***Cristóbal Cerón is an Anglican Pastor in Santiago, capital of Chile. He and his student worker Max Díaz tell us where their church is and share some of their encouragements at this time.***

Hello. Our church is located in downtown Santiago, the central district which is the main political and influential suburb in Chile. On the 1st of May this year, we celebrated our fourth birthday! It has been an enormous encouragement to

see non-Christians converted and mature Christians getting passionately involved in mission.

***Max, how have the first few months gone for you in this new ministry? What are some of the things you do each week?***

It has been three months of getting to know the students. Much of the week I spend walking in campuses and talking to people. In downtown Santiago alone there are almost 150 thousand students. It has been very hard at times but God has



given us grace to persevere. My other main activity is to connect with different faculties and offer them courses that may help students in areas that will not be taught in University. I also run a department that aims to deepen passion for missions and train future gospel workers. It is called "Challenge" which is part of the Anglican Church.

***What are your plans for the future in the student outreach and in the church?***

The aim is to establish a student ministry that will help people know Christ. It will begin small, probably establishing a weekly bible study (first 6 months) and then grow to hopefully create a ministry that could become a church plant. In the meantime, we are trying to generate opportunities for service, mercy ministries are very encouraging at this time.

***What can we in Ireland and the UK pray for?***

Please pray for perseverance and boldness as we preach

the gospel to a post-Christian generation. Pray that we in ISA (Iglesia Santiago Apóstol) may be able to be like big brothers to the students we are reaching, so that a significant Christian movement may be born in Chile for the glory of God. Pray that we may be able to hear God's voice as we take strategic decisions for the future of the ministry, because we don't want to spend time nor resources in "our" plans but in His plans.

To all in SAMS ... Thank you for being willing to be part of the gospel work here in Chile!!!

*Editorial note: SAMS have taken a step of faith and made a commitment to support this exciting initiative for 3 years. The commitment is,*  
Year 1 - 2014 £10,560  
Year 2 - 2015 £9,560  
Year 3 - 2016 £8,560

*If you wish to support this outreach please send your gift to the SAMS office.*



## ***PETE HARRISON TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCES AS A RED BOX VOLUNTEER***

The Red Box Project combines church based youth work, detached youth work, discipleship training, community engagement and schools work. It also facilitates a gap year programme which provides placement opportunities for young adults from the UK and Ireland to participate within a church and community setting in South America. Cecilia Valdiviezo from Argentina, the Red Box Co-

ordinator, believes passionately that God calls and sends us into our communities to participate in His mission, going beyond our comfort zones by embracing evangelism and social action.

Peter Harrison, the 16th SAMS volunteer has concluded his year participating with the Red Box Project. Whilst spending six days in Bermejo in Bolivia, Peter



reflected - "There were so many things God had been doing with me prior to my week in Bermejo, so having to leave Argentina to renew my visa created the opportunity to rest in Him and His presence while spending time with Bolivian Christians.

Pastor Marcelo collected me up from the Bolivian side of the river and we headed to his house for a pretty snazzy lunch! My programme was very busy for the six days I stayed, it contained various activities such as home visits, preaching, speaking in a University and sharing through sport. One of my favourite experiences was meeting a man called Ruben, who has an exceptional testimony of God's grace in his life. A former lawyer and alcoholic, he now speaks to students in schools and universities through a programme which emphasises the importance and necessity of having Jesus in your life. He and I both shared our lives with a few of the students informally sitting at a table at the University. God moved and all six gave their lives to Jesus. It was an

honour to meet this man because his example, character and integrity was inspirational. God gave me the opportunity to speak about His goodness to members of the congregation in the church in Bermejo. It had been heavily on my heart to preach and not only did I have one opportunity, I had four! I was really pleased to share from the Bible and to be attentive to God's voice as he spoke through me. However, I believe that the best thing about Bolivia, apart from the immense family atmosphere, the preaching and meeting so many inspirational and impressive people, was just being able to be in a quiet place with God, offering sacrifices of praise to Him. I have learnt about the power of declaration. I kept declaring who I am in Jesus and what He has accomplished through dying on the cross for me, and in doing so I recognise my freedom which gives me courage in going through spiritual battles and also being at peace.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity!"

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# *Daniela* Retamal

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My name is Daniela and I was born in the capital city of Chile...Santiago.

I grew up in the church, because my family is involved in Christian work. I studied to be an Art teacher and I always wanted to use my God given talents to serve God and resource churches. Often people think that mission is going away to unknown places where people live in tribes, but I realize that mission starts at home in your own community. That is why after several years of serving in my home congregation, and working as an Art teacher in a local school, I decided to offer myself to participate in the SAMS FUSION programme and God has sent me to this wonderful place!

I am living with the Rector of Maghera and his family (the Hanna's) who are the most beautiful and friendly family I have ever met; they are teaching me how to live a life serving God, and also how to deal with the day to day challenges of life. God has also given me beautiful

miracles embodied in people who have helped me in my placement and made it easier; God has introduced me to Billy and Laura Blair, Geoff Hamilton and Ken Clarke, who have shown me how to live in the real "Norn Ireland."

During this placement God has shown me that we can be from very distant countries, but the needs of people are the same everywhere. People need God and God does not change... He always loves us. His love and power are reflected in every detail in the lives and activities of the church where I serve now. During my time here I have already seen a lot of people give their lives to Christ, and that fills me with joy.

I'm happy here and I want to devote the rest of my life to serve the Lord. I LOVE MY FUSION PLACEMENT!

**Daniela (Dany) Retamal Alvarez**

*P.S. A sincere thank you from the SAMS Team to the Rev. Isaac Hanna, his wife and family, and Maghera Parish, for their kindness to Dany.*

# A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

WRITTEN BY PETER JONES



In the summer of 2003 I departed for Salta, Northern Argentina, as part of a SAMS ‘Beyond the Norm’ team from the Diocese of Derry and Raphoe, led by Bishop Ken and Mary Good. I had just finished teacher training and had been appointed to a post in Clondermot High School (now Lisneal College) in Londonderry. This was a formative time in my professional life but it was to be equally, if not more, significant in my spiritual journey.

I became a Christian when I was thirteen years old and had always been actively involved in parish life – serving on the Select Vestry, teaching at Sunday School, and leading our Youth Fellowship. But I also felt that God wanted me to



journey deeper in my relationship with Him, and that He was calling me to new avenues of Christian service. As I embarked for Salta this was very much in my mind and I hoped that three weeks in South America, and the opportunities that this trip would present, would help me discern what God was saying to me.

As I reflect back on those weeks in Salta I can honestly conclude that they were a real voyage of discovery. When I left Northern Ireland, I somewhat arrogantly, thought that I was going to South America to transform the lives of the people there. Three weeks later I was the one who had been transformed! I was encouraged by the depth of the faith of the people I met, their dedication and commitment to God, and their willingness to put their faith into action. They were prepared to travel well beyond their comfort zones, to go the extra mile, in seeking to communicate the Gospel by word

and deed. This challenged me to assess my own journey of faith and how God was calling me.

One way in which this trip helped me discern the will of God was that it offered a wide range of experiences: for example, children's clubs, praying with people who were waiting to see a doctor in a local church hall, and building projects. I also preached in a church for the first time in Salta!

After three weeks in South America I returned to Northern Ireland encouraged and more clearly focused on pursuing the call of God. The full exploration and pursuit of this call would take a further ten years, and would ultimately lead to my ordination in September 2013. But I look back with fondness, and thankfulness, on the summer of 2003 and regard my time in Salta to be the beginning of a remarkable journey which I consistently thank God for.



# CONCEPCIÓN CALLING

A message from Claire Holmes

As many of you know the local church here is in a time of change due to the retirement of Bishop Andres back in May. In the short term the church won't have a pastor. The idea is that the church council will be responsible for the ministry of the church. Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other, so pray for unity, a sense of togetherness and in this transitional time pray that we experience growth within the local congregation. Javier is going to be the Vice President of the council for this year so please pray for him and his wife Myriam.

Please pray too for Norma and Saul who are responsible for the Indian shelter. They do a great job, and their ministry is so important as it enables the Indians to spend a few days in a safe and supportive environment while passing through from the Chaco. Recently several people have stayed for longer periods of time. One pregnant lady stayed for several months while her husband was in Asunción with their other child who was sick. The Indian shelter is located in a neighbourhood called 'Inmaculada', its an area with many challenges. It's renowned for drug dealing, but give thanks for a steady group of children and young people who we are working with. Pray for the children and young people and the families they come from.

As always, I appreciate your prayerful support.

God Bless  
Claire



# MISSION PARAGUAY

WRITTEN BY DAVID ORRITT

This summer two groups of volunteers from churches in the UK and Ireland will visit Paraguay to work with the Anglican church in different areas of the country. Several members of Annaghmore Parish will be working with mission partner Chris Hawksbee on a variety of building projects in La Patria in the Chaco, while others from Portstewart and Lisburn will be visiting Asunción and Concepción where they will work alongside Claire Holmes.

The bullet points below highlight some of the areas where specific resources will be directed in the coming weeks and months.

This includes:

- Building brick walls for a school in the Chaco.
- Constructing a 21,000 litre underground rainwater storage tank.
- Making toilet cabins for Indian families with no facilities.
- Working alongside Chris Hawksbee to provide new homes and improvements to existing homes for Indian families.
- Funding the mobile toy library which enables children with no toys to learn through play.
- Completing the building at Ramonita which is used for children's ministry.
- Continuing to support the sewing workshops which encourage women in poorer communities to become more self sufficient.
- Supplying and distributing spectacles to people who cannot afford to visit an optician, over 1,000 pairs have been supplied in 2014.



***We ask "Where does God fit into the story of my life?" when the real question is "Where does my life fit into the story of God's mission?"***

**Pray for:**

- Chris & Alison Hawksbee serving in Asunción and also in the Chaco.
- Claire Holmes serving in Concepción, Paraguay.
- Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern principal and vice principal in St Andrew's School in Asunción that God would guide them in the midst of a busy and demanding work load.
- Alejandro Deane as he continues to develop the Garden Project in Northern Argentina.
- Cecilia Valdiviezo the Red Box coordinator.
- Peter Harrison recently returned Red Box volunteer.
- Daniela serving as a FUSION volunteer in Maghera.
- Rev Peter Jones as he starts his curacy this September in Dungannon.
- Student ministry in Santiago.
- David Orritt and the ministry of Mission Paraguay this summer.
- Lizbeth Varillas, the Diocesan Youth Coordinator in Peru.

**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.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**SAMS HOUSE**

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan,  
Craigavon, Northern Ireland, BT66 7EZ

T: 028 3831 0144

E: [info@samsukireland.com](mailto:info@samsukireland.com)

W: [www.samsukireland.com](http://www.samsukireland.com)