

MISSIONAL / RELATIONAL / INTENTIONAL



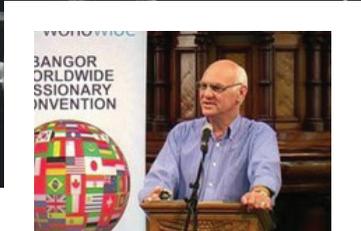
# BUENA VISTA

WINTER EDITION 2017

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

# Turning an audience — into an army —

*a message from the SAMS Mission Director*



*“There aren’t enough missionaries to solve all the issues in the world, but there is an army of believers, sitting in Churches, waiting to be mobilised. Ordinary people, empowered by God, making a difference together, wherever they are.*

*The greatest need of the twenty-first century is to release the pent-up,*

*latent power of the average believer in Churches local around the world. If we could figure out a way to turn an audience into an army, to turn consumers into contributors, to turn spectators into participants; it will change the world. It’s time to stop debating and start doing. It’s time for the Church to be the Church.”*

These stirring words from Rick Warren are a real challenge to the church. From the beginning God’s people are called to be missional people. The Church by its very nature is missional. Our God is a missional God. We worship a missional Father. He sent His Son. Jesus Christ is a missional Saviour. He sent His Spirit. At Pentecost there was a pouring out of the missional Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses. Inescapably the Church is all about mission.

Jesus said, **“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”** John 20:21

He also said, **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”** Acts 1:8

How tragic it is then when the Church is distracted, divided and diverted from our call to be His witnesses. How heartbreaking when we are caught up in trivial pursuits rather than living

lives worthy of our calling. An old friend of mine, T.S. Mooney, used to say, “If the devil doesn’t put a demon in your heart, he will put a bee in your bonnet!” How many churches are distracted by bees in bonnets!

In this year of 2017 may we be not just hearers of the Word but doers! We are not some kind of incompetent insignificant “Dad’s army!” We are the army of the Lord...called to walk in the light of the Lord, commissioned to be His ambassadors, commanded to go into all the world. May we continue to encourage each other in this high call and high privilege!

Enjoy this latest edition of Buena Vista and **THANK YOU** for your partnership in His Gospel and mission!



# Gwen Carlisle

Interview with Gwen Carlisle (Headteacher of St Andrew's College, Asuncion, Paraguay)

**F: Gwen, there are a lot of people who know your name but really don't know much about you. How long have you been in South America?**

G: I've been in Paraguay for 34 years

**F: Wow! And you've seen a lot of changes. Are there one or two that would come into your mind?**

G: Amazing changes! The amount of building work at the moment and in the past few years is incredible and I think Paraguay's changed from a backward

looking country to one that really is catching up, but it's happening in a shorter space of time.

**F: Did you have an interest in South America for many years before coming to Paraguay, or was it something quite sudden and unexpected?**

G: I'd heard about the school a few times. Eileen Murphy had been to my home church and also to the church I attended at College and I heard about the school from there and that did rouse an interest in me.

**F: You're now Headmistress of the school. How long have you been in this role and what would you say are some of the openings for service in the school at the moment? Some people think teachers aren't needed anymore in South America.**

G: I've been Headmistress now for 15 years. We certainly need English teachers and I think that because our school is meant to be like the British school, the Anglican school, then we need people who are British as well, because that is part of the ethos of the school. We have a full complement of Paraguayan staff. Presently, we need teachers for English, we need a Maths teacher in English, an Art teacher in English and lots of other people, so we're always open to new people coming from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

**F: As we pray for you and for the school, what are some of the things we can pray for?**

G: One of the things I would ask for prayer for is the future. We're trying to get everything sorted. We're getting all our Statutes and everything in order. We need to be looking now for a new Head for the school and for new leaders in the

school. This is always hard, because we want people to share our ethos and our mission for the school. We also pray that our pupils will not just know about Jesus but that they will know Him and put Him first as Lord of their lives. The objective of our school and the reason for its existence is that the children and young people come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. The little ones know Him as friend, they get to know Him as Saviour, but owning Him as Lord of their life is the really difficult part.

**F: Amen. What a vision! Finally Gwen, how many pupils are in St Andrew's College at the moment and how many teachers?**

G: We have 370 pupils in the whole school plus a few extra. There's about 150 in the primary and about 120 or 130 in the secondary and 80 or 90 in the pre-primary. There's about 80 or 90 teachers, including the Annexe staff and that includes our English and Paraguayan staff.



The Apostle Paul shared in Acts 20:24-25 “But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” I pray that my own desire and the desires of each one of us are the same as the Apostle Paul’s.

Looking over the past year I can see His grace in every step I made. I can see His comfort in every Word I received from many people encouraging me to keep going in the race. This past year God surprised me. For the past 13 years I have been involved in several ministries including helping in my church. This year God showed me I needed to slow down to recharge every area that was weak. So for the first time I knew I had to do that... without question and just resting in HIM. That was beneficial for my health and for my spirit as well.

Having the visit of another volunteer, Jenny Scargill, was a refreshment not only in church but also in the English Institute where she was volunteering. The students were moved by her kindness and her capacity to interact, even without speaking our language.

Church activities have ended for 2016, but let me share something really special we did as a congregation. In our culture, being a 15 year old young lady is something very special. As a family we celebrate this as a big event and have a big party. This year the youth leaders decided to celebrate this party at church, but with a very particular goal... “to invite” their non-Christian friends so they could see how we as Christians celebrate this special event. The kids had a great time and lots of good fun. They had such a lovely time that most of them shared with the leaders that they were a little anxious to attend because the party was in the church, but then they changed their mind. As a result some of them are now part of the youth group and are starting to get interested in developing a relationship with Jesus.

This showed us that God indeed works in mysterious ways. May His grace and love continue to fill our hearts. Thank you for being part of the team, we need you!

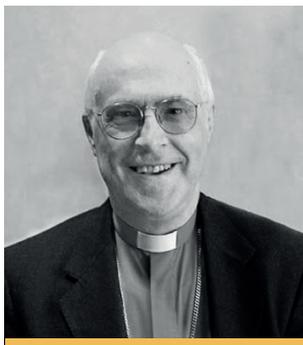
**Cecilia Valdiviezo**



# SLOW DOWN

“just resting in HIM...was beneficial for my health and for my spirit as well.”

## An interview with Bishop Greg Venables



**We warmly congratulate you on your recent election as Primate of the Province of South America. What do you see as some of the primary needs of the Province at this time?**

We recognise the need for maintenance but we long to keep the mission of the church as the first priority. The fact is that we don't ignore the need for maintenance but we long to see more effective mission. We celebrate our diversity of cultures and contexts in the different countries, while seeking to maintain unity, without abandoning the revealed Gospel of Jesus Christ. We do not want to cross a line which results in a denial of the Gospel as revealed by Christ.

**Now that you're Primate for the next 3 years what are some of your dreams for the Province of South America?**

My dream is for the Gospel to be proclaimed simply and directly in the rich diversity of Latin American culture. I also pray for the Anglican church in South America to fully serve God's Kingdom purpose for our presence here. If we can't fulfil what God wants, there's no point in being here.

**Thank you very much Archbishop Greg!!**

## T O M O R R O W WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF

*Written by Alec Deane, Northern Argentina*

The Wichi Indians, with whom I work, are hunter-gatherers and think exactly as a hunter does: "Today is the day... tomorrow will take care of itself". Short term decisions that go against them and a tool to manipulate by politicians. The forest, which was the main provider, is being lost or degraded and there is a population explosion. Children everywhere...

For sure you'll run into problems with this combo... What can one do? Agriculture comes to the rescue BUT it has to be adapted to these hunters. We have had to be creative as most projects failed with these people. Some rules we follow to get results are:

- first make sure there is water and make efficient use of your water (drip irrigation)
- think small.
- work with those "on the borders", not those who talk much.
- work with the family unit, never mix families.
- start to relate to people beginning with Christians. You see that the faces change when you say you are their brother, animosity falls.

Following these simple rules we are producing maize, pumpkins and tomatoes and most of all producing a reaction from authorities with these people that have no results. We need them to use our experience and use it on a larger scale to affect more families.

This is happening now as we are now sitting at the table where decisions are taken, where policy is set. Projects with our strategy are being approved and although the "elephant" (as we call the government) is very slow, it's starting to move. This we were praying for over five years and it's happening. Thank you all for supporting us as a family and mainly the Wichi Indians.



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”



Participating in the We Walk Together conference was a time of great blessing and encouragement in my life. Together, with Christians from 12 different countries in the Americas, we shared testimonies, worshipped, praised and prayed together.

It was an enriching time for the 16 people that went from Peru. We were all expecting to hear about what is new in mission, but the talks given by Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi and the other speakers reminded us all, and me personally, to return our focus to the fundamentals; repentance, intimacy with God, the moving of the Holy Spirit, doing what Jesus commanded; so we can see what happened in the first church in Acts 2:41-43, happen in our countries. God spoke to me about not getting distracted and complaining when we don't see results, but to stay focussed on following His will. Looking at what He is already doing in our church today, and seeing the shoots that will give fruit in abundance in the future. It was also a beautiful time to chat and pray with Rocío Castro who shared with me about her experience serving in Ireland.

# WE WALK TO- GETH- ER

Written by Lizbeth Varillas,  
Lima, Peru



## BUILDING THE CHURCH

Written by Raymond Campbell

In August a team of 4 men, Andrew Allen, William Montgomery, Andy Smith and myself, travelled to Paraguay to build a Church in the extremely remote area of La Patria in the Chaco region. The project was to build a church for the community, which we were meant to do 2 years ago when we were last out, but were unable to do due to the road conditions following flooding.

After a 15 hour delay in Madrid and in Sao Paulo, we arrived in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, however our luggage remained in Madrid! After two days, three of us were reunited with our luggage and we embarked on a nine hour road journey to the small and very remote village of Laguna Carpincho, to work and live

with the Indian community. Our living conditions were incredibly basic - no running water or electricity at all.

The project was to build a Church roughly 20ft x 40ft with a steel frame, windows and doors. The project was overseen by Chris Hawksbee who doubled up as cook! Despite losing so much time at the start, in just two weeks working in temperatures exceeding 37 degrees we built the Church, complete with a tin roof and concrete floor (luxury in this region).

On the day we left, there were great scenes of gratitude from everyone and we as team felt a great sense of pride and achievement on completing the job we had gone out to do.



## A First Stitch

"PERHAPS GOD  
HAS MADE A  
FIRST STITCH IN  
ITS REPAIR."

*Written by Canon Kyle Harlon*



Do you know what a darning egg is? It is sometimes used to help repair the hole that can form in the elbow of your best pullover. When the egg is in place, it stretches the fraying edge, making it look even worse than it is.

For us in Fivemiletown Parish, there is a definite hole in our ministry to young adults. We have tried various things over the years but young adults are largely absent from worship here each Sunday.

The prompting to bring a team of young adults to Peru seemed in some ways to draw attention to the hole. Quite a narrow age range of 18-29 year olds was set. After two efforts of writing to every one registered with us in that age group, the five young adults from the parish who wanted to go, along with someone who is very involved with us from another Christian tradition, made up the team of young adults. SAMS very kindly arranged for Alison Crawford to accompany the team and act as its translator.

Each team member engaged so differently. Some related well to Pastor Anderson and his wife Isabel. Others to Norma and Julio, senior pastors at the Church we visited. Others engaged with the school, the special needs programme, or with Sarah & Paul Tester. For me, I enjoyed meeting Sister Paquita, the sister who looked after our accommodation. In pigeon Spanish we smiled and communicated, and had a sense that what we shared most was Jesus. The church leaders struggle with many of the same issues as us. And the very great challenge is to think about how best to respond to what we saw and encountered, and how to make sense of it from our lives lived out in N. Ireland.

The hole in the young adults' ministry is still here. But perhaps God has made a first stitch in its repair. I noticed almost all of the young adults helping at the Pop-Up Kids' Club we held in November. God knows best how to repair and provide for the needs of His Church at home and in Peru.



# SIMPLY THE STORY



Written by  
Claire Holmes

Concepción in Paraguay has had the great privilege over the years of receiving many people and teams on short term and long term mission trips. Through this the church here has learnt a lot about mission and our need to be involved. We have always emphasised God's command to 'go and make disciples' starting where we are, 'near' and if God calls 'far.' Over the last year the Lord has opened up opportunities for us as a church to go further afield.

Bryan Thompson came here from Ireland in July 2014 and again in January 2016 to train us in 'Simply the Story - STS.' It is one form of Bible Study which works well with both literary and oral learners. A Bible Story or passage is told and then observation and application questions are asked to help go deep into the passage. As a result of the training we now have a team here of young people and adults who

are trained to train others. This same team which includes teenagers, went to the Diocesan Synod to lead Bible Stories. As a result of this an opportunity has opened up to lead Bible studies through story at the Diocesan youth camp which our young people are very enthusiastic about and also with some of the indigenous people in the Chaco. We have also been doing the course in Concepción with some people from one of our annexes in the Chaco attending and we hope and pray that it will help in the formation of leaders.

As well as the closer to home part, opportunities are opening up for people from the church here to travel to other parts of Latin America with 'Simply the Story.' One of the young people, Lucia and me went to Guatemala in July to help with a STS Bible workshop there and it was amazing for both of us. We had a 12 hour stopover in Peru, and as the team from Fivemiletown were there at the same time we were very excited to get to spend the day with them and hear all about their mission trip there.

Zuny, one of the ladies from church is hoping to go to Ecuador in February to help with a workshop. Ecuador has been on her heart and in her prayers since the

earthquake in April and she is amazed to have the opportunity to go and to share with some of the people there.

I love the verse in Psalm 96:3 'Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all people.' Please pray the Lord will continue to raise up and send out leaders throughout Paraguay and further afield to do that.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

# Friday Night Live

Craigavon Civic Centre  
Friday 3rd February 2017 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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