



BUENA·VISTA

SUMMER EDITION 2011



sams
IRELAND
South American Mission Society

MISSIONAL ● INTENTIONAL ● RELATIONAL



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Warm Christian greetings to you.

What a great encouragement it was for us to have Alf Cooper and Jose Henriquez the Chile miner over at Friday Night Live and at other venues. While we are grateful for the large number of people, (2500 in total) who attended these events, it was the humble proclamation of the Gospel which touched everyone's heart. So many people were influenced by Jose's story and the realistic understanding that while physically not everyone is rescued from every situation, spiritually we all are rescued by our faith in Christ.

We are pleased to welcome Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern officially into the SAMS Ireland family and their witness and leadership in St Andrew's College Asuncion, Paraguay has been deeply appreciated by all the teachers who have worked with them over the years. We give thanks for those from Ireland who are joining the staff at the college this year.

Prayer is a crucial element of our work and the SNAP (SAMS News and Prayer) information which Claire Holmes sends out by email every two weeks has been well received. If you would like this emailed to you please contact the SAMS House. As one mission partner said many years ago, 'your kneeling keeps us standing'.

Mission is central to what we do in the church and your enthusiasm at a local and international level is vital for the growth of the Gospel. Let us encourage each other as we continue to serve the living God.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Denis Johnston
General Secretary

BRAZIL

WRITTEN BY JOHN LOGAN

Support of both a practical and prayerful value continues to bring benefit to the people of Itaperuçu through the work of Monte Horebe. The school in particular should very soon receive new technology which will extend greatly the range of teaching techniques and thereby improve the quality of the students' learning.

The Caçador community centre project is approaching another milestone, in that ceilings have been fitted and work is being done on constructing and fitting windows and doors. In addition to this, a number of youth members of the Prado ("Meadow") Baptist Church in Curitiba have dedicated time to serve the Caçador Community. This partnership - Monte Horebe Church and the Prado Church - has already existed for some years as a way to unite people around the common goal of spreading the Gospel which leads to physical

and spiritual transformation within the wider community. In this way, practical love complements the spoken delivery of the Gospel and the watchword of Monte Horebe, "The Word through Action", is fulfilled.

Please pray that all projects continue on track for the benefit of the Itaperuçu community. In particular, pray for the family of a young man, Miro Stocchero, who was tragically drowned recently. The Stocchero family have long been associated with Monte Horebe and have contributed much to the mission's development. Miro's widow, Joce, is currently working in the Community Kitchen while her daughters, Taiza (15 yrs) is at college and Stephanie (12 yrs), and Helena (8yrs) are still at Monte Horebe School.

Thank you for your continuing support.

YES WE CAN

The image of prayer partner Rev Alf Cooper alongside President Obama and President Pinera of Chile is a strong visual aid which reminds us to pray for those in positions of leadership and influence. In 1 Timothy 2:1 we are also reminded to pray for those in authority.

There is a need for our theology to engage between faith and the network of opinions and structures that make up society. The mission of the local church needs to develop a balance between serving the structures in society, being prophetic

and proclaiming the gospel in order to come to wholeness and integrity in its mission. Our witness to an alternative vision based on the Christian faith and world view helps us to imagine the world anew and motivates us to bring about change on a personal and community level.



President Obama, Rev. Alf Cooper & President Pinera

The Church often looks for methods; God always looks for people. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through people.

He does not come via a modem, but via people. He does not anoint plans, but people.

CONNECT

One of our key objectives in SAMS is the establishment of new working models in mission. As a mission agency we are excited to be working with the diocese of Peru and resourcing nationals to engage within their local context. The following update is from Paul Tester who facilitated the link between SAMS and Lizbeth Varillas the Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinator in Peru.

FOCUS ON JESUS: God has given the Diocese of Peru's youth ministry the vision of "Young People and Youth Leaders connected to Christ, the True Vine". Focusing on John 15:4-5 we have been challenged to put into practice what it means to remain in Jesus and to see youth leaders and young people living that out. Our entire ministry is rooted in seeking the presence of Jesus and in discerning his will.

DREAM OF NEW THINGS: It takes 16 hours to travel from Peru's

second city Arequipa to the capital Lima and the return journey costs around £40 – far too much for most young people from Arequipa to attend a diocesan summer camp in Lima. This year, therefore, the Diocese of Peru launched its first summer camp for young people in the south of the country. Over 30 young people from Arequipa and Juliaca joined together for worship, teaching, fun and fellowship. Run by local youth leaders and supported by the team from the Diocesan Youth Ministry, the event left the young people encouraged and strengthened in their faith in Christ.

MAKE GOOD BETTER: Summer camps have always been a highlight of the year for young people in Lima and Ica. This year the Diocesan Youth Ministry extended the usual 3-day weekend camp for teenagers to a full 5-day extravaganza with Christ at the centre!

LECTED TO CHRIST



“Young people have returned with a great enthusiasm to follow Christ”

There was also a 3 day camp for 17-25's. Highlights included new commitments to follow Christ, teaching that challenged young people to be centred in the presence of Christ, Christian dances (now a craze across many youth groups!) along with sport and arts. Young people have returned with a great enthusiasm to follow Christ and to be more involved in their churches.

The Diocese of Peru's Youth Ministry is exceedingly grateful for the support that SAMS provides to enable this ministry to develop, supporting Lizbeth Varillas in her role as youth ministry coordinator and providing resources and support to youth leaders across Peru. During the year the team visits youth ministries across the country, disciples youth leaders, encourages and equips them for their ministry and puts on diocesan-wide events such as the summer camps and a retreat for youth leaders.

Esperanza

Written by Penny & Murray Metcalfe

We thought we would take this opportunity to update you on the Esperanza Foster Home in Asunción. The funds that have been sent are certainly necessary as Esperanza is back up to its full quota of 5 children following the adoption of Alexis at the end of last year. In fact, for a brief time there were 6 children in the home as a local Judge insisted that a 3 month old girl be cared for in Esperanza while she waited on a suitable foster family. The child who has replaced Alexis for a longer stay is a 2 month old boy called Santiago. He is doing extremely well and has grown considerably in the short time he's been there.

In our last update we mentioned that little Jose Antonio had missed out on the chance to have surgery on his cleft palate. Teresa wrote a few days ago saying "Operation Smile" were in Asunción again and she was hopeful that Jose could now be included. The State has now declared him officially "adoptable" but she is worried that no prospective parents will

come forward due to his special needs.

The legal situation of the remaining children, Barbara, Victor and Sebastian has not improved since we last wrote, in fact Teresa tells me that in one case Social Services have decided to begin the entire assessment process again. If the birth parents are in prison or struggling with addictions or in psychiatric institutions it is very difficult for decisions to be made about the children's future, hence the need for the loving care that Esperanza offers. If you pray, we would very much appreciate your prayers for resolution of the cases of these 3 children.

Every now and again it is possible to see how valuable time spent in Esperanza can be, as some adoptive parents are keen to keep a connection with the home. Teresa wrote last month of being invited to lunch with a family who adopted 2 brothers from Esperanza. She was thrilled and moved to see them doing so well in their new family.

Buena Vista Summer 2011



A WAY OF LIFE



We are delighted to inform you that from April 2011 Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern became SAMS Ireland mission partners. Over many decades Mags and Gwen have facilitated numerous teachers from Ireland and UK. Since 2002 Gwen has been the Head and Mags the Deputy Head of St Andrew's School in Asunción.

St Andrew's College is a Christian school in the heart of Asunción, the capital of Paraguay and was founded in 1963 with the aim of providing a bilingual Christian education in English and Spanish. St Andrew's has remained faithful to its Christian foundation and the school remains part of the work of the Anglican Diocese of Paraguay.

Today, St Andrew's has 370 pupils ranging in age from 3 to 18 years. The school employs a full Paraguayan staff plus a dozen English-speaking teachers. It is the only school in Asunción to provide the full Paraguayan curriculum and internationally recognised qualifications. Most pupils go on to university and many of them are able to go abroad to study. The school ethos seeks to instil in

pupils a love for their country and also an appreciation for the wider world. Our goal is always to give pupils a vision of what they could do as Christian professionals. Many ex-pupils have returned to work in Paraguay after studying abroad.

As an Anglican school we are privileged to have contacts, through the work of various churches, with poor and marginalised people. Each year we try to take groups of older pupils to the Chaco, an area of scrubland where there is often



and help them to see that they can make a difference.

In addition to the main school, St Andrew's incorporates an Annexe school for children from a local shanty town called the Chacarita. This is an area on the edge of the river that floods regularly but where many people build their homes in order to be near the centre and find work. This is also a Christian school with similar aims to those of St Andrew's College, although the pupils don't have English lessons. Some of the staff teach in both schools and standards are high. Today the Annexe school has 250 pupils.

Classes range from a nursery class for four-year-olds up to the highest primary class for 15-year olds.

The school's development isn't always smooth and there are setbacks along the way, but there are also many testimonies to God's faithfulness. It owes much to the many people who have given time and resources sacrificially in service to God.

This isn't a job; it's a way of life so keep Gwen and Mags in your prayers daily.

“we hope these encounters open their eyes to the profound needs of their country”

drought or flooding and where the indigenous people live. Our pupils stay in the basic conditions of the Anglican centre and go out to dig water tanks, latrines and paint the schools. They meet with local people and experience life in these communities first hand. In some ways we hope these encounters open their eyes to the profound needs of their country



CONCEPCION

WRITTEN BY CLAIRE HOLMES

In July a team of eight people will be heading out from four counties in Ireland, to spend two weeks in Concepcion, Paraguay. We will work alongside the church, supporting, encouraging and helping out in any way we can. This will include being involved in the normal life of the church with its many Children's Clubs and youth activities and it may also include some practical work. Our desire is to show the love of God to the people of Concepcion and the surrounding area.

I first went out with SAMS on a short-term team to Concepción in 1999, and then stayed on for nine years! The people captured my heart with their warm welcome

and smiles. Sharing my life within a community of simpler life styles due to lack of material wealth was refreshing and being part of a church with a passion to share Jesus was invigorating. During my nine years, several teams came out and I know they were encouraged as they helped the local church and many spoke of how the experience impacted their lives.

We pray as we go out that our partnership with the church will encourage and strengthen them, and that God will impact our lives with an urgency and passion for his mission. Thank you for your prayers for us and the church in Concepción.

MISSION PARAGUAY

WRITTEN BY DAVID ORRITT

The Anglican Centre at Rio Verde is a six-hour drive from Asunción over the Rio Paraguay and along the Trans Chaco highway, the only road north into the Chaco and ending in Bolivia. Mission Paraguay volunteers from four churches in Ireland and England will be based there for three weeks in August working alongside mission partner Chris Hawksbee on a variety of projects in different Indian communities.

Originally nomadic hunter gatherers, the Enxet Indians are now amongst the most marginalised people in Paraguay, unable to inhabit their ancestral land much of which has been cleared and fenced off for ranching. They now live in village communities and with assistance from people like Chris, an agriculturalist, are slowly becoming more self-sufficient.

It is a harsh environment

characterised by drought for much of the year and baking temperatures during the summer months. Nineteenth century visitors to the Chaco called it the 'Green Hell'!

Once again Mission Paraguay will be funding the construction of underground rainwater storage tanks and the sinking of three wells in villages desperately in need of reliable sources of wholesome water.

In addition to assisting local Christian builder Daceo and his team with this work, the volunteers will be repairing and improving some of the local timber churches and helping to build new homes for Indian families which will replace makeshift dwellings of plastic sheeting, old corrugated metal, and palm logs. Ten basic single room homes will be built this year using bricks manufactured in the local community.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA WITH LOVE



My dear family in Christ,

May our God keep being the reason why we live day by day - after all that is the reason we are alive! My Argentine summer is almost finished which means that new activities start all over again.

Normally every January for several weeks I am with you all in Ireland but this January (my summer) after so many years of being far from home I had the chance to be with my family and to take part in summer camps, as a camper and also as a leader. What a lovely experience! As I said before we are in the beginning of our activities here and this year we added a new programme to the Red Box Project which includes visiting schools and sharing with them. God has blessed us so much in this area and now we have been asked to visit other schools.

I continue to be on the preaching

rota at my church and the great news about this church is that, little by little, it is starting to be part of the community. The pastor is a visionary man and the church is hoping to buy a plot of land to plant another church in a local shanty town.

Let me tell you a wee story from Saturday night. I invited my gym teacher around to my house because she is from Buenos Aires which is 22 hours away by bus. When she came to my house she saw some of my books on the table along with the Bible. We started talking about God. We talked until 4am in the morning and I had the opportunity to share God's love with her and in the middle of the night she decided to give her life to Christ. Her name is Clara and as this is just the beginning of her Christian journey I would love you to pray for her.

Love to you all.

CECILIA

MAXIMISING FINANCE

We in SAMS are very grateful for your continuing financial support, especially at a time when many are experiencing the effects of the current economic situation. Your consistent giving, including monthly standing orders, is vitally important and enables us to sustain our current commitments and plan for the future under God's guidance.

One way in which you can maximise the effectiveness of your donation is to use the Gift Aid scheme which increases the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to yourself. In order to qualify for this scheme you need to be a UK taxpayer and have paid sufficient tax to cover the amount we reclaim. Further details can be obtained from the SAMS House.

Another valuable source of income is legacies. Once provision for loved ones has been made, legacies which are directed through SAMS provide valued resources which support and develop the work of the Church in South America. Legacies are also tax efficient as any amount given to SAMS is currently free from inheritance tax.

"Let us give up our work, our plans, ourselves, our lives, our loved ones, our influence, our all, right into God's hand; and then, when we have given all to Him, there will be nothing left for us to be troubled about."



BUENA VISTA

PRAY FOR:

Pray for the individuals, communities and countries highlighted in Buena Vista. Pray especially for **Gwen and Mags** and the work of St Andrew's College in Paraguay. Remember also the following people:

Zoe Eves from Kilbroney who continues her work in Asunción and for her future after her six month placement.

Matthew Hickmott, his wife Kim Ging and their boys Ben (8) and Sam (7) from Crinken Parish in Dublin as they travel to the school in July. Pray for safety in travel and for settling in to a new culture and climate.

Hannah Taylor from St. Patrick's Coleraine as she plans her flights and fundraising with a view to leaving for Paraguay in September 2011.

THE MEDIOCRE TEACHER TELLS. THE GOOD TEACHER EXPLAINS. THE SUPERIOR TEACHER DEMONSTRATES. THE GREAT TEACHER INSPIRES.

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SAMS Ireland 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. For further information in confidence contact the SAMS House.

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