

# BUENA-VISTA

SUMMER EDITION 2012



MISSIONAL ○ RELATIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL



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## WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It's only one word, yet the implications are immense. According to some "It's the way we do things round here". It has to do with the way that key ideas inform and shape us. It includes the way we arrange our time, the work that we do, and the way that we do it. So what is it?

The word is culture! It's unavoidable and all pervasive. Culture has been likened to the air that we breathe. As a mission agency, SAMS believes that we are called to breathe the 'common air' of the cultures in which we have been placed. Be encouraged and pray with us as we move into new areas of ministry. Share with us and be part of the SAMS family which seeks to encourage, resource and challenge individuals and churches to participate in God's mission. Don't settle for a life which is lived exclusively within a church culture! Consider the challenging and missional prayer that Jesus prays for his disciples

in John 17:15 -18: 'My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world'.

The words missional, relational and intentional are central to the SAMS ethos and as a mission agency we want to thank you for your consistent support and we challenge you to:

### MOVE BEYOND SELF

Be missional today.

### ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Be relational today.

### LIVE LIFE WITH PURPOSE

Be intentional today.

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Yours in Christ,

Geoff Hamilton  
*Development Officer*



CITY

UTD

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*an interview with the new*  
**SAMS DIRECTOR**

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In the autumn of 2012 Bishop Ken Clarke will take up his position as the new SAMS

Mission Director. Geoff Hamilton the SAMS Development Officer asks the following questions.

### **What is the location and context of your present position?**

For the past 12 years I have had the enormous privilege of serving as the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. The Diocese is cross border and covers counties Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo, Longford and Roscommon, Bundoran in South Donegal and parts of Co. Fermanagh. Our home is in Cavan.

### **What history do you have with SAMS?**

Since my teens I have been interested in South America but I have been involved with SAMS since I was a curate in the early 1970's. As a family we served in Chile as SAMS missionaries and I have been Chairperson of SAMS Ireland since 1993.

### **What excites you about becoming the new SAMS Mission Director?**

First of all, because I firmly believe this is God's call, it is always exciting to move forward in God's will for your life. It may be stretching and difficult at times but there is no better place to be than to be in God's will. Secondly, I believe we are at an exciting time in the world of mission. The needs are vast but the opportunities and resources have never been more plentiful. I genuinely believe that in these first few decades of the 21st century, God is calling us to new adventures in His mission. I want to be a part of God's purposes in this our generation.

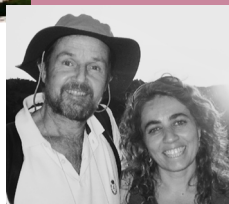
### **How challenging is it going to be for you, a Man United fan, working with me a Man City fan?**

I guess it is an opportunity to model unity in diversity, reconciliation in the context of conflict and love when it is difficult to love!!



## Yachuyaj wo

*The Garden Project*



**A**lejandro Deane, known to us at SAMS as "Alec", grew up in the bustling city of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. He has been working for 30 years alongside the Wichi people in Northern Argentina and remains a passionate advocate for the rights of this indigenous group. The SAMS Development Officer asked Alec to give Buena Vista readers an overview of the work he is involved with.

### OVERVIEW

"Two years ago, after a Wichi girl died of protein deficiency, I decided to develop an agricultural project to improve nutrition for the local Wichi community. The project has been highly successful with more than 80 families participating. My vision is that the Wichi can live sustainably and with dignity in their own lands, neither depending on donations nor having to migrate. I know that SAMS have been committed to marginalised people in South America for generations and that's why I wanted to share this story and partner with SAMS."

The Wichi Indians are one of the largest groups of indigenous people living in the 'Chaco' region mainly between the two rivers Bermejo and Pilcomayo. Drastic changes have confronted the Wichi people in the past forty years. Multi-national companies with no concern for the condition of the Argentine environment or for the indigenous people of Argentina have deforested large quantities of land in order to grow beans and cotton.

Wichi people have traditionally grown a few crops in their gardens but climate and environmental changes have made this more and more difficult in recent times. Alec started the "Yachuyaj wo" (Wichi word for gardener) project in 2009 because he thought there was a possibility that Wichi families could

***"My vision is that the Wichi can live sustainably and with dignity in their own lands"***

produce food in their gardens if drip irrigation techniques were incorporated. If that were to happen then they would have better health and nutrition and it would prevent migration which affects culture and dignity. SAMS is committed to supporting Alec in this vital work and so we have developed a Garden Project Resource for churches/groups giving more detailed information.

### **HOW CAN I HELP?**

- Contact SAMS for a project pack and share it with your church/home group etc. The pack contains group bible studies and information about the project.
- Make a donation to SAMS. All donations marked for Alec Deane will be allocated to the project.
- Pray for Alec and his wife Ivon as they raise awareness and support for the project.

# NOTICIAS DEL PERU



*Lizbeth Varillas is the Diocesan youth ministry coordinator in Peru.*

Dear Friends,

I thank you for your prayers and support. Truly you are a great help in extending the Kingdom of God in Peru. The continuing support from SAMS is a great encouragement!

I thank the Lord for the opportunity that he has given me to continue to share with Peruvian young people the vision that he gave us in 2010 “Young people and youth leaders connected to the True Vine” which was inspired by John 15:4-5. Youth leaders and young people are grappling with this challenge and beginning to apply it in their lives. A further

step is being added to this vision “and bearing good fruit”. I want to see young people in Peru abiding in Christ, learning that a life that abides in Christ bears fruit. Our summer camps have been a good opportunity to share this message from John’s Gospel. Verse 5 was the theme of this year’s camp, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit”. We shared wonderful times of blessing with the young people of Lima, Ica, Arequipa and Juliaca. Pray with me as they have returned to their various villages, towns and cities that the word sown in their hearts will take root and bear fruit.

Our youth ministry seeks to reach many young people. Youth in Peru is one of the largest sections of the population and because of this we see the need for leaders in



**"I DESIRE TO SEE  
LEADERS WHO  
LOVE GOD WITH  
ALL THEIR HEART"**

our diocese who  
can encourage

young people. A key challenge  
is to continue investing time in  
accompanying and equipping  
leaders. I desire to see leaders  
who love God with all their heart  
so that they live lives that abide  
in Christ - lives that impact Peru.

**PRAYER TOPICS:**

Pray for the voluntary  
youth leaders in the various  
parishes. Pray that they will  
continue to abide in Christ.

Pray for all the young people in  
Lima, Ica, Arequipa and Juliaca  
who went to the summer camps.  
Pray that God will stir people up  
and send workers to areas where  
children and young people don't  
yet have a leader who will guide

them in their walk  
with Christ.

Pray for the various workshops  
with youth leaders that are  
planned this year. Pray that  
the Lord will lead me as I  
seek to provide the leaders  
with the necessary tools which  
will enable them to equip  
their young people better.  
This year I plan to study  
theology. Pray that as I continue  
to equip myself I will be able  
to serve the young people  
of Peru more effectively.

Thank you SAMS for standing  
with us prayerfully and  
helping us financially.

***Lizbeth Varillas***



## A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**B**ishop Miguel Tamayo who is affectionately known to many of us in SAMS was elected as the second bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Uruguay in 1997 and consecrated and installed as diocesan bishop in Montevideo on 26 May 1998. A native of Cuba, he was born in the island in July 1944. His primary and secondary education was at St. Paul's Anglican school in Cuba.

He graduated in 1962 from high school. This was a significant moment in his life as he was grappling with the call to the ordained ministry. He discussed

this with his pastor who referred him to the Bishop and he obtained a scholarship to study at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas. From 1962 to 1965 he studied Bachelor of Theology, but this was temporarily interrupted due to a legal obligation to comply with military service, compulsory for males over 16 years of age in Cuba. Having returned to the seminary in 1968, he completed his theological studies in 1969 and was ordained to the diaconate and sent to serve in a rural parish; ordination to the priesthood followed in 1970.

## MIGUEL TAMAYO TIMELINE

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1944  
1962  
1962  
1967  
1970  
1982  
1995  
1997  
2004

Born in Cuba in July  
Graduated from high school  
Began studying Bachelor of Theology  
Married Martha Lopez  
Ordained  
Appointed Dean of the Cathedral of Havana  
Pastor at the Cathedral of Montevideo  
Diocesan Bishop of Uruguay  
Interim Diocesan Bishop of Cuba

He served in the parish for 13 years until, in 1982, he was called to serve as Dean of the Cathedral of Havana, where he remained until 1993. He then entered a sabbatical period, during which he was invited by Bishop William Godfrey of the Anglican Church of Uruguay, to serve as a mission partner in Uruguay, which materialized in January 1995. After serving as pastor at the Cathedral of Montevideo, he was elected Diocesan Bishop to succeed Bishop William who had become the Bishop of Peru. Miguel was invited by the metropolitan authority for the Diocese of Cuba to serve

there as Interim Bishop. This he did from 2004 through to 2011, which led him to frequent trips to Cuba, sharing time and resources between the two dioceses.

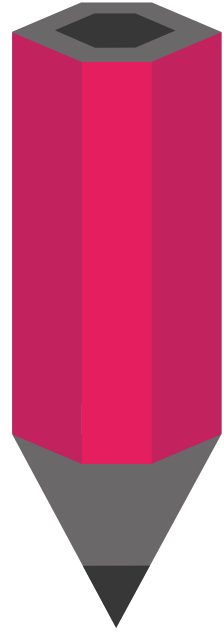
Miguel has been married since 1967 to the Rev. Deacon Martha Lopez, also a native of Cuba and they have three children and five grandchildren. Miguel has been a great encouragement to the small Diocese of Uruguay especially through his passionate commitment to mission which focused on serving the weak and vulnerable. Give thanks to God for Miguel and pray for him and Martha as he retires later this year.

# Training Teachers, Transforming Lives

**FEISA** is a Christian educational institution which seeks to provide excellence in the services it offers. Once again this year, God has surprised us! 22 students finished their 1st Year, 17 their 2nd Year and 16 their 3rd Year of studies. Some of our students come from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds, but thanks to donations received from SAMS supporters, we were able to offer scholarships to ten students and reduced fees to five others.

Miriam Lorena Ferreira is a 2nd Year student who lives with her mother and brother in the city of Villa Hayes, 50 kms from the capital, Asunción. Her father works in the Chaco on a ranch, and comes home once a month. Very sadly, her brother suffered a serious motorbike accident in 2011, and all Lorena's savings

from holiday work, which she had been keeping to pay her college fees, were spent helping the family to cover medical expenses. Thanks to help received from friends of FEISA, all her fees were covered for the year. Lorena now in her 3rd Year is working in the mornings as an auxiliary in an infants school. Lorena told us how she sensed God's love and faithfulness towards her in FEISA and shared the following testimony with her fellow students: "I experienced God as a Father who cares for my needs. I had often heard testimonies of how God blessed others, which I had found hard to believe, but today I myself have experienced His love."





## FEISA ALUMNI

FEISA opened its doors in 2000, offering a diploma in Early Years Teaching. The first students finished in 2002 and since then, 138 students have graduated. From 2008, FEISA has offered a Degree in Early Years Teaching and 23 students have obtained the Degree. FEISA's past students are making an impact on Paraguayan society. Some of them are:

### **Anabel Lizárraga**

Coordinator of a State project called "Embrace" that works with street children.

### **Silvia Veron**

Deputy Head and Educational Coordinator of a Christian Institution, "The Shelter", that cares for 100 destitute small children.

### **Christine Benkendorf**

Director of a project, "The Planet", which works with children from poor backgrounds, providing biblical teaching, educational play, learning support, vegetable gardening etc.

### **Ana Flor**

Pre-school Coordinator of "San Jose", one of Asuncion's largest and most important schools.

### **Katiha Rodriguez**

Administrative Assistant in the Paraguayan Ministry of Education.

# RED BOX

*Dear Friends,*

*I would like to share with you some of the activities we have been doing in the church since January. I thank God for your love for Latin America.*

## **January Summer Camp**

70 young people went away on our summer camp. There were times of worship, Biblical teaching, various talks on a wide variety of topics, games, a talent show, good food, visits to local homes to hand out food items and to share the love of Christ. Now that our summer has ended and we are in autumn, all our activities have started up again. This year, myself

and the youth pastor will be involved with schools' work, visiting the youth detention centre and working with the youth at church.

## **Breakfast Clubs**

There are some exciting changes to our feeding centre project this year. Instead of offering a main meal to 100 children twice a week, we are offering a nutritional breakfast, with mid-morning snack, to 200 children in five different locations, along with games and crafts. We are simply sharing the love of Jesus in actions and words. There are also opportunities to visit the children's homes and to deepening relationships with the various families.





### **Red Box Volunteer**

Fiona from Co. Wicklow has been with us as a Red Box volunteer since the middle of January and she integrated with us with no problems. The language, weather and culture are different but she is part of us and serves with an open heart. Her schedule is very busy, so keep Fiona in your prayers.

### **Prayer Points**

- Thank God for His provision and guidance for the Red Box.
- Thank God we have been able to purchase necessary stationery and food items, and plan to buy kitchen equipment/ music equipment.

- Thank God for the faithful leaders and helpers; pray for their health and their families.

- Pray that the children and their parents may come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

- Pray for our youth leaders, that God can provide them with wisdom and holiness to lead the youth.

- Pray for the young people at the detention centre. May God work within them and may they experience his love and mercy.

Thank you for being part of this!  
Many blessings, Cecilia.



## PRAY FOR:

- Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern principal and vice principal in St Andrew's School in Asunción as they visit link churches in the UK this summer.
- Hannah Taylor as she continues to teach in St Andrew's School in Asunción.
- The Hickmott family as they conclude their time in St Andrew's School in Asunción this summer.
- Alejandro Deane as he seeks to develop the Chaco Garden Project.
- Lizbeth Varillas, the Diocesan Youth Coordinator in Peru.
- Red Box coordinator Cecilia Valdiviezo.
- Red Box volunteer Fiona Heaney.
- Claire Holmes as she returns this summer to work in Concepción, Paraguay.
- Valerie Thom and team serving in Rio this summer.
- Raymond Campbell and Dale Compton serving in the Chaco this summer.

## 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 family. If we can serve you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

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