



WINTER EDITION 2011/12



MISSIONAL ● INTENTIONAL ● RELATIONAL



## CONTENTS

Welcome .....	3
Mission Paraguay .....	4
Red Box Project .....	5
Colegio San Andrés .....	6-8
Peruvian Vision .....	9
FUSION .....	10
Esperanza .....	11
Brazilian Musing .....	12
Seaside Moments .....	13
Movements .....	14-15

## Warm Christian greetings to you.

What a wonderful world we live in today with so much beauty in creation and in God's providence to enjoy. Yet it is a broken and confused existence at times with all the ups and downs of life. One thing remains constant, however, and that is the promise of a living Saviour who died on the cross and rose again for us. That is the mission we in SAMS proclaim today as we share the Gospel message and the truth of the Bible with others. Should it be in social projects, theological training, exchange of personnel and other link methods, our ultimate aim is show Christ to others. To this end we have Matthew Hickmott, Kim Sing and Hannah Taylor teaching in St Andrew's College, Asunción and I am delighted to say that Claire Holmes will be returning full-time to Concepción, Paraguay in summer 2012. We have Penelope Perez Curtis (Chile), Oscar Leon (Chile) and Jax McCallum (Argentina) working in churches in Ireland and are in support of several South Americans in training overseas.

I am due to retire on 31st December after 24 years as General Secretary of SAMS Ireland and as this will be my final contribution to Buena Vista I want to thank all the clergy, laity, and the host of volunteers who have supported SAMS for so

many years for your prayers and encouragement. It has been a humble privilege to serve God in this capacity and my heart will always be with SAMS in South America, but the key motivation for all of us is, that this is God's work, it is His Gospel and to Him be the glory.

Every Blessing to you all,

In Christ



Denis Johnston  
General Secretary

# MISSION PARAGUAY

Written by David Orritt

After a drive of approximately five hours on the only road (Trans-Chaco) through the sparsely populated Chaco, you arrive at the Anglican Centre in Rio Verde. During August this was the base for the SAMS volunteers who worked with Chris Hawksbee gaining hands-on experience assisting with projects which benefit local communities, helping them to become more self-sufficient. For the last few years Chris's ministry has included organising the building of new homes for local families.

Eligio Velaguez and his family are examples of this ministry; they will soon move into one of the 10 new homes. Like many people in the

**"Mission Paraguay is about building relationships, deepening commitment and changing lives."**

scrubland of the Chaco, they live in a home constructed of logs, corrugated metal and polythene sheeting. The new home has adobe walls, a solid floor and a corrugated metal roof

with guttering to collect rainwater, a valuable commodity in a region suffering prolonged annual drought. One of Mission Paraguay's priorities each year is to fund the building of underground storage tanks to collect rainwater and, despite temperatures often in excess of 30°C, everyone on the team was eager to assist with the excavation work. That meant spade work as JCB's are not available!

While other building projects are being financed in the summer of 2012 including improvements to basic housing on the outskirts of Asunción and upgrading existing churches and other diocesan buildings being used for children's ministry, a visit to Paraguay is not just about construction work. Mission Paraguay is about building relationships, deepening commitment and changing lives. Volunteers spend time working and ministering together and building relationships with other Christians living in different cultural circumstances.

*I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone who has supported our work through prayer, giving and enthusiasm.*



# the Redbox project

May our  
lovely Father  
keep all of you in  
good form and willing  
to go on with our work for  
the kingdom.

We are starting to enjoy spring here and with it comes a fresh air in the ministry of the Red Box Project. We have six more weeks working with schools and, as you can imagine, the young people and teachers are looking forward to having a long break. My project "the cornerstone" has been a blessing not only for us as a team but for the schools we've been working with. So far we have been with more than 5000 young people and we still have more schools to visit before the end of year. God has opened a door we never thought about - a youth detention centre - so the team and I are spending time with these marginalized young people and sharing with them about a Hope in Christ. We know we have some hard work to do since these young people have serious problems with the law and

sometimes they are violent and don't want to meet new people, but we trust God who has blessed us with this open door.

The soup kitchen which one of the churches runs is also working very well. Every Wednesday and Friday more than seventy kids and young mums come to the church to share food. Give thanks for the team that helps; it's a committed group of women and young people who do an amazing job every week.

Last Sunday 18 people were baptized and we had a great time that included a picnic. It was a blessing for us all and a time to reflect on how God moves.

Thank you for your prayers and support; you play an important part in the Red Box Project and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Friday Night Live in February.

Be blessed and be a blessing,  
**Cecilia Valdiviezo.**



# COLEGIO SAN ANDRÉS

***From an English-speaking kindergarten for five children in 1963, Colegio San Andrés (St Andrew's) has grown into one of Paraguay's significant educational institutions, with around 400 pupils. This is the context in which SAMS mission partners Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern are working.***

Greetings from sunny Paraguay. It is warming up. At 8:00 am the temperature on the street was already 38°C! Give thanks for a very good half term with all its activities which included Sports Days for infants, primary and secondary. Education takes on many forms and we challenged a group of young people from the school when we went along to a nursery for babies whose mums work on the rubbish dump. The pupils were very moved by going up to the dump and seeing where the babies actually come from.

Our goal is always to give pupils a vision of what they could do as Christian professionals

## PLEASE PRAY FOR US

We would love you to pray for our work here in Paraguay, that we might make the most of the open door that God has given us at this time; that many young people might come to know Him and then go on to make a difference for God in their country. Pray that we might always have the staff we need. If there are any English teachers out there looking for a new challenge, please invite them to get in touch with SAMS. We are always looking for more English-speaking staff. We need trained primary teachers, secondary English for foreign language teachers, or qualified TEFL teachers. At the present time we also need a secondary ICT and Maths teacher.

*Many thanks for all your support and prayers,*

*God Bless,*

*Love Gwen and Mags xx*



We have been here in Asunción for a little over four months now and we are happy to say we are all feeling well settled into our new life. There have, of course, been challenges to face during this time, but God has been incredibly faithful in helping us with every one of them.

As parents, one of our biggest concerns has always been how our two boys, Ben (9 years) and Sam (7 years), would cope with moving to another country. We are so thankful that we can report that they are both doing really well. They have made new friends quickly and have adapted to a new and very long school day 7.30 am to 3.30 pm!

They are really beginning to get to grips with the language and enjoy

it - in fact, they frequently correct our grammar and pronunciation! However, they do still miss home, especially family and friends, and we would ask you to pray for us in this regard.

Since we arrived in Asunción, we have all been very healthy and well, with not even a cold to report! We would appreciate your prayers for continued health and safety for us all. We would also appreciate prayer for continued energy as we juggle our work and family life. Being a parent is busy wherever you live!

Many thanks for all your support and prayers. It is very much appreciated.

*Kim, Matthew, Ben and Sam*





A few months in and I can honestly say that Paraguay is beginning to work its charm on me. It's an impossible place to describe - I can't explain what it's like. It's old but modern; it's eccentric but understated; it's poor and it's rich; it's beautiful and it's plain. I think it's a "have-to-be-there" situation.

I've really appreciated your prayerful support thus far. School is very busy at the moment with exams and class excursions. I'd appreciate your prayer for school, the pupils I teach, for God's protection in every aspect of their lives, for safe and memorable trips, especially for the 3rd Form in their final year of school and for

the staff, especially for energy and enthusiasm to get through the next few busy weeks. May our lives as teachers here in Paraguay reflect Jesus and help point our pupils to Him. Please keep in touch. I love hearing from home! And of course I'd be more than happy to fill in a bit more detail about what exactly I'm doing.

Hannah Taylor

# PERUVIAN VISION

WRITTEN BY PAUL TESTER

Imagine you had 30 million people spread across a country 15 times the size of Ireland. Imagine that a quarter of that population is aged between 12 and 25. Imagine that poverty is widespread and resources scarce. Imagine that travel is over huge distances and often difficult. Imagine that you are beginning with a handful of young people spread across that country and that you want to see a nation changed by the Gospel. Welcome to the Diocese of Peru's Youth Ministry!

The Anglican Diocese of Peru has parishes and missions in a number of Peru's regions. We, the Diocesan Youth Ministry, are playing our part in the spread of the Gospel by serving young people across Peru. By focusing on serving local young leaders in different regions we want to see them develop and be released to share the Gospel and serve others in their area, in a variety of youth ministries across the country.

We believe that young leaders, fully part of the body of Christ, can be an example and by doing so can change those around them. We are investing

in them so that they can continue to serve other young people and do so more effectively. Nikole was 13 and was already helping lead Sunday school at St Luke's Church in Arequipa, a city in the south of Peru, 1000km from Lima. She knew that the church needed to provide a space for young people like her to grow and develop and that's when Lizbeth, the Diocese's Youth Ministry Coordinator visited and started to build a mentoring relationship with her. Nikole wanted to begin a ministry with young people and so with the support of Lizbeth, Nikole was able to do so. St Luke's has a children's home and school linked to it and so this ministry has seen rapid growth. Other young people from the local area have also been drawn to it. What Nikole and the other young leaders at St Luke's now need is people to continue to walk alongside them as they wrestle with life as young Christians and as young leaders. She needs spiritual direction, leadership training, materials to work with, people to walk with her as she leads others. Stand with us in prayer and if you want more details on how you can share with us then contact Geoff Hamilton at SAMS.



# FUSION

My name is Penelope Perez Curtis and I am from Chile. Before I came to Belfast as a SAMS FUSION volunteer



I was working as a solicitor in Santiago, the capital of Chile. Since I was a child, I've been a member of the Anglican Church together with my family, but it wasn't until I was 15 that I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

Since September 2011, I've been working as an Assistant Chaplain at the Church of the Resurrection (Church of Ireland and Methodist Church Student Centre) in Belfast. It's been an incredible experience so far and I have felt very blessed by God in this whole process of settling into a new country and a different culture.

A typical week in my life right now is based within walking distance of Queen's University. It involves pastoral, administration and staff meetings related to the Church and the Student Centre in the morning.

From 12 noon to 3pm I work at The Hub café organizing the rota of students volunteering to help at the

café. The Hub café's goal is to be a "café with a conscience"; this way, it helps different charity organizations with the earnings that it makes.

I'm also in charge of a female group of students. We meet every other Tuesday and Thursday and together we study the Bible. It's been a real blessing to get to know the girls and to know more about the Lord together. Another important ministry I'm involved with is Late Love, which takes place on Thursday nights. We meet to worship God together and then, after prayer, we go out to the streets to give tea, coffee and biscuits to the people who are on the streets up until 3am. We share the message of God's hope to the people we meet.

Beside the aforementioned, I also participate in other activities that the Chaplaincy organise, such as "The Gathering", "Collide" and Prayer ministry. I have also had the chance to work with the kids on Godzone, which is our Sunday School. This has been a new experience for me but I'm very grateful.

I'm very excited about this opportunity that God has given me to serve Him. I appreciate your prayers as I spend this year away from Chile.

# Esperanza

Written by Penny & Murray Metcalfe

Thank you SAMS supporters for your interest, prayers and practical help for the Esperanza Foster Home in Asunción. Murray went out to Paraguay earlier this year to generally encourage the team, by letting them know how much we on this side of the Atlantic care about them and the children. He was also keen to get the Esperanza team together with the State Adoption Centre to find out how they saw things developing.

What of the children themselves - Jose Antonio, aged 3, has now had surgery on his cleft palate and a severe squint. Whilst this has been successful, Murray's impression was that his difficulties go deeper and that he may be autistic. Although he has now officially been declared "adoptable", the Adoption Centre

has not yet managed to match him with prospective parents.

Sebastian, aged 2, is a happy and lively boy. His legal situation is very complicated and seems to have progressed little since his arrival in Esperanza early this year.

Siblings Barbara (5) and Victor (3) arrived in Esperanza at the end of 2008. They were finally able to go to adoptive parents in July but very sadly their new parents did not feel able to cope and they were returned to Esperanza after a short time. This is the first time this has happened and came as a shock. The children were very pleased to be back with Juana again and we hope and pray that they will not suffer long term from this rejection.

# BRAZILIAN MUSING

Written by John and Phyllis Logan

We have been privileged for the 20th time to have been able to travel to Itaperuçu, Brazil, and work with and learn from our colleagues in Monte Horebe (Mount Horeb) mission. While there is always much work to be done here in Northern Ireland on behalf of Monte Horebe, it remains a marvellous experience to be able to contribute directly towards the mission's aims in the local environment. In "helping people to help themselves", the Word through Actions, our roles in 2011 were similar to those of recent years: Phyllis dealing with support for families through the sponsored child programme and visiting needy families in the area and John teaching, translating and supporting the school Principal in aspects of school development.

Monte Horebe operates a wide range of social, educational, health and economic projects each with a strong Christian ethos. These include the dental clinic, mainstream school, youth and adult education and the development of the impoverished

rural community of Caçador. A complete list of projects can be found on drop-down menu under "Programas" on the MH website [www.montehorebe.org](http://www.montehorebe.org). The information has all been translated into English (under the original Portuguese) but as of 25 Oct only some translations have found their way on to the website.

One of the major roles we fulfil is the monitoring of those projects which have received/are receiving funding from supporters like you. Included amongst these is Caçador where, thanks to a generous donation from St Patrick's and St Andrew's and to an equally generous donation from

an anonymous member of Coleraine Parish, a community centre is nearing completion.

When fully operational this centre will serve as

a school, clinic and meeting place for an outlying, largely impoverished community which seldom benefits from local government assistance.

**"helping  
people to help  
themselves"**

# SEASIDE MOMENTS

In the opening verse of Matthew chapter 13 we read that Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. It's followed immediately by the parable of the sower, but the parable is often the starting point for a round of analysis as to what the Church should be doing, whilst nothing much is said about sitting beside the sea!

Our culture likes speed. We like things to be fast and efficient and in some areas of life this is excellent. But speed is not always good for us i.e. fast food, eating on the run, driving too fast, never having the time to pause, or actively listen to what someone is saying. Spiritually we can be subject to this tendency towards speed and efficiency. In Matthew 13 as Jesus sat by the sea to get the space he needed, he found himself besieged by the crowds, who wanted more of him. So from his moment of stillness he went out in a boat and began to teach.

**"Spirituality that bears fruit is not a fast food business."**

Spirituality that bears fruit is not a fast food business. You can try to make the Kingdom of Heaven more efficient if you want to; you can try and maximize effort and produce more. Real spiritual growth has an optimum speed, and accelerating the growth and maximizing the harvest will be about as much good for the soul as fast food is for the body. Some things just take time.

The parable of the sower is not so much a call to do more things or achieve more goals. It is more of a call to recognize that spirituality that lasts involves letting quite a lot of stuff go, and having the patience to ignore the fast growing weeds and wait for the good stuff. In the meantime, make sure you make time for a seaside moment this week!



## CLAIRE HOLMES

Concepción is a city in northern Paraguay and it lies on the Paraguay River, but more significantly it's a place which God has imprinted upon the heart of Claire Holmes. Keep Claire in your prayers as she will return to work in Concepción in the summer of 2012. Pray also for Bishop Peter Bartlett and auxiliary Bishop Andrés Rodriguez as they seek God on concerning future developments in Concepción.



## CHRIS & ALISON HAWKSBEЕ

In Rio Verde we have completed the dismantling of an old generator shed and erected it in a more convenient place on the site and now have a secure shed for general storage, which was very much needed. In El Estribo, we have started the digging of the hole for a new water cistern which stores water from the Karanda church roof. Five new adobe houses have been started, of which one was completed bar the painting before they left. It was great to see the expressions on the new home owners' faces. We also erected the structure and roof on Pastor Mario's house in the community of La Patria.

The work I mentioned for prayer whilst in the UK was that of the funding for a cattle project in the Village of Santa Fe. The funding has come according to plans and the work is progressing quickly. The water reservoir for cattle watering (5000 cubic metres) has now been excavated. Thank you for your prayers on these practical issues.





## MICHAEL BROWNE

Please continue to pray for Michael Browne's ministry. By the end of 2011 Michael hopes to have a new project proposal to present to supporters, with the aim of seeking continuity of the work with the Tobas and also possible new work with the neighbouring Pilagá Indians.

The Pilagás want to translate the Old Testament, and they're keen to continue with the recording of audio Scriptures (they already have the Gospels and Acts). There's the same need for literacy materials in their schools. The two languages are very similar, so it would make sense to work together with the Tobas. For a small increase in the workload, the number of people that would benefit from these projects would be doubled. If God has placed Bible translation work as an area of ministry which you want to support please contact SAMS. Your partnership with people like Michael is valued.



## NICK & CATHERINE DRAYSON

Please pray for Bishop Nick Drayson who was installed as Bishop of Northern Argentina on 27th November. The ceremony took place in Juarez which will be their base for Episcopal care for the whole of the diocese. Pray for Nick and Catherine as they seek to ensure that the indigenous voice is heard in the wider church and in society at large, and asserting the dignity of their language and identity. Pray for safety in travel as their ministry covers an extensive area. Pray for strength and wisdom as the challenges they encounter are numerous and varied. Pray for unity between the different Indigenous groups from different areas with different cultures. Pray also for unity between the Indigenous and Criollo (Spanish speaking) Christians.



**BUENA VISTA**

### **OPPORTUNITY:**

St. James Anglican Church in Punta Arenas, Chile has responsibility for the British School which is connected to the church (<http://www.britishschool.cl>). At present the school is looking for someone to teach Christian Education from preschool classes up to fourth grade. We urgently need a mission partner to cover this need starting in March of 2012, and from 2013 we need a teacher of Christian Education from fifth to eighth grade. We are looking for a person with a missionary vision, a committed evangelical Christian with a teacher's degree. We believe that the school is an important area of ministry not only among the children and young people, but also among the staff and parents. Contact SAMS for further details.

**Please pray for Friday Night Live which is on Friday 3rd February 2012 in Craigavon Civic Centre at 7:30pm.**

### **Do you receive SNAP?**

SNAP (SAMS News And Prayer) is a prayer resource which is sent by email every month. If you would like to receive SNAP as an individual or as a resource to be shared with a prayer group or a church gathering, please contact SAMS.

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. For further information in confidence contact the SAMS House.

.....

## **WWW.SAMSIRELAND.COM**

E: [samsirelandhouse@btinternet.com](mailto:samsirelandhouse@btinternet.com)

T: 028 3831 0144

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan, Craigavon, BT66 7EZ