

**BUENA·VISTA**

WINTER EDITION 2010



**sams**  
IRELAND  
South American Mission Society

MISSIONAL ○ INTENTIONAL ○ RELATIONAL



## Warm Christian greetings to you.

We in this country are facing 'austerity measures' or more commonly severe cutbacks in government spending which will affect us all during the next number of years. However when we look at our world it is good to get all this in perspective.

Through the Gospel we bring a message of hope to South America and other places and how encouraging it was for us to see the open witness of many people during the rescue of those miners in Chile. Indeed a key role in prayer was played by Rev Alf Cooper who has been a SAMS mission partner for many years and is also chaplain to the President of Chile. This is a great encouragement to all who have supported SAMS for many years as we see the seeds of the Gospel bearing fruit.

We also see this in the number of South Americans who continue to come to Ireland through our FUSION programme. Their witness and work has been a real blessing in many of our churches. So be encouraged to keep on going because in the ups and downs of life it is always good to remember that we have a faithful God.

*Yours in Christ*

**Denis Johnston**  
**General Secretary**

# BUENA-VISTA

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### OBITUARY

#### Dean Norman Lockhart

In the summer of 2010 we in SAMS Ireland lost not only a dear friend in the passing of Dean Norman Lockhart, but also a man who both as Chairman and later President of the Society contributed enormously to the growth and development of the work in South America. For over forty years Dean Norman in his association with SAMS

was highly respected throughout the Church of Ireland and further afield for his leadership, organisational ability and his proclamation of the Gospel. He was a people person who encouraged and motivated others. He left a legacy which will never be forgotten and we in SAMS Ireland are deeply indebted to a true man of God.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't miss Friday Night Live which will be held on **Friday 4th February 2011 at 7:30 pm in Craigavon Civic Centre**. Guests include Bishop Carlos Lopez from Spain, Rev Alf Cooper from Chile, Bishop Peter Bartlett from Paraguay and all of our South American FUSION volunteers. The keynote speaker is the Rev Barry Forde, Chaplain to Queen's University, Belfast. We have arranged for extra seating and an overflow following the response to last year's event.

### WHAT A PRIVILEGE

Eileen Murphy and Molly Cooper recently returned to Paraguay for the first time having worked there for many years. Eileen reflected on the visit – "Paraguay is a land rushing headlong into the 21st Century, with a government making some effort to alleviate the lot of the desperately poor. We were welcomed with all the warmth and spontaneity of

this creative people! Ex-colleagues, past pupils, former FEISA students and Lydia Prayer Partners all gave us glimpses of God's continued blessing on seeds sown by many people, over many years. What a privilege!"



# *a letter from* **Beryl Baker**

*I* am writing to express my immense gratitude to SAMS Ireland and particularly to my link parishes of Swanlinbar and Kildallen for all the support I receive. Thank you for the blankets and the box of glasses which were delivered to me. The blankets are extremely useful for the children and as there is no other access to an optician and spectacles other than ourselves, they too will be well used. Mark's Gospel is their reading test as the print is so small and they can now take Jesus' words with them when they leave.

The drought continues and as the winter is over, the temperature already reaches 40 degrees and will rise further until a heavy downpour arrives. The Chaco at this time is a very sad sight and not a pleasant place to live for anyone or anything. I have recovered well since my time in hospital but am very aware of having someone to train up for the future and to this end I would ask for your continuing prayers for a Paraguayan nurse who is currently seeking God's will to possibly carry out this role.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support,

Greetings in the Lord to everyone,

Beryl



*Beryl Baker has been a nurse in the Chaco for over thirty years.*



# Esperanza

Buena Vista Winter 2010



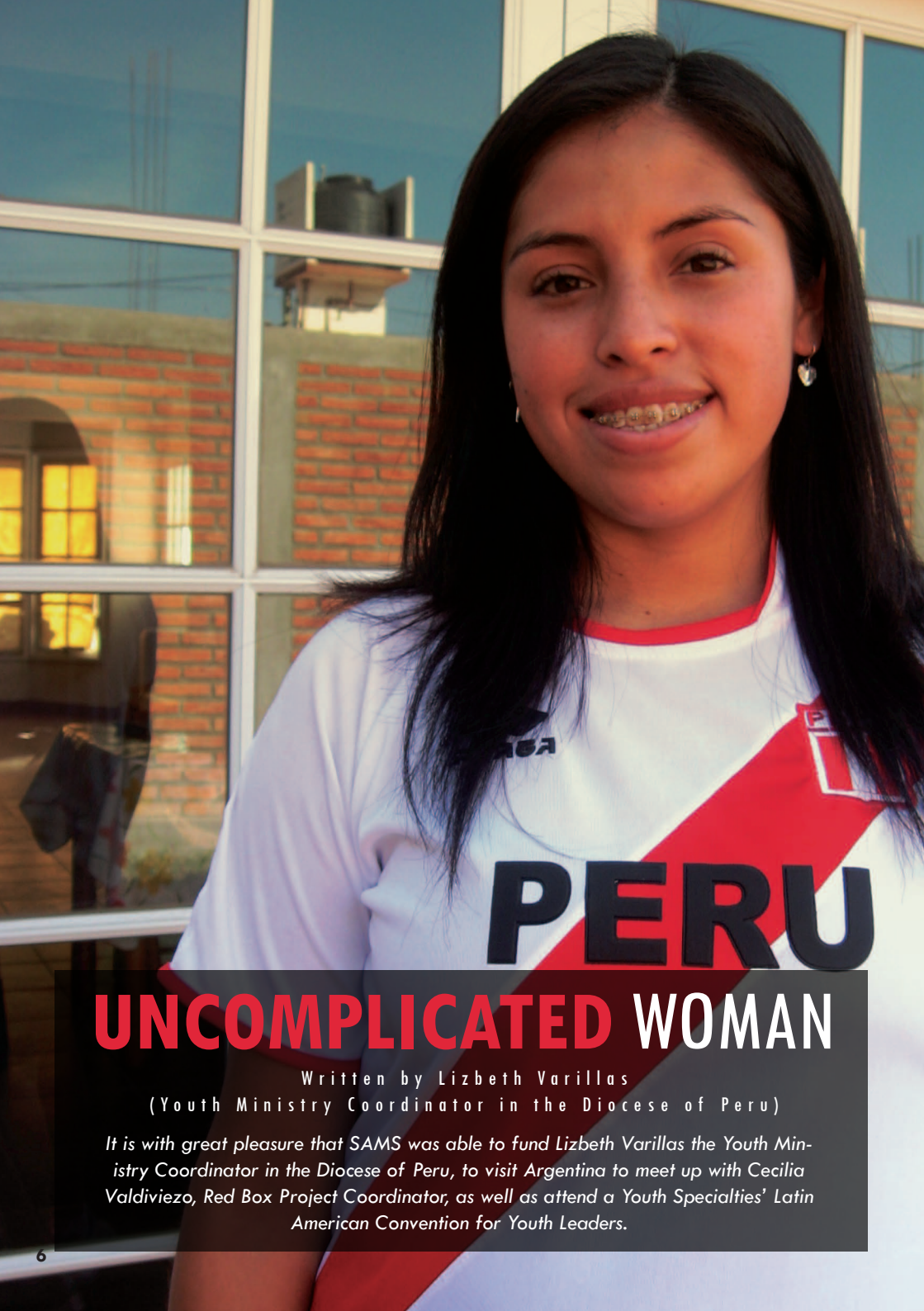
*Written By Murray and Penny Metcalfe*

Esperanza which, by the way, means 'Hope' is a foster home in Asuncion, Paraguay. The project which is a home began in 2005 and it works within the national adoption system, caring for young abandoned children as it seeks families to adopt them. The staff are all local women.

Recent months have been filled with both joy and sorrow for the Esperanza Foster Home. In September, Alexis was finally able to go to his adoptive family who are Christians. On October 17th, Esperanza's 5th anniversary was celebrated with treats and a trip out for the five children. The following week brought great

excitement as young Jose Antonio was granted a place to have further surgery on his cleft palate, courtesy of the "SMILE" charity, despite there being only 125 children offered surgery out of the 300 requesting it.

Sadly he has since had a bad case of herpes in his mouth and has had to give up this opportunity. Amongst all this, Juana (foster mum) has had the worry of her 20-year-old son suffering an acute appendicitis. Please pray for God's hand over these situations and for the new child that the Adoption Centre will be choosing to take Alexis' place in Esperanza. **Thank you!**



# UNCOMPLICATED WOMAN

Written by Lizbeth Varillas  
(Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Diocese of Peru)

*It is with great pleasure that SAMS was able to fund Lizbeth Varillas the Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Diocese of Peru, to visit Argentina to meet up with Cecilia Valdiviezo, Red Box Project Coordinator, as well as attend a Youth Specialties' Latin American Convention for Youth Leaders.*

I thank God for the opportunity I had to visit Argentina in what was a great example of God's timing. He took me, his daughter, and gave me a brief escape from the busyness of so many things so that he could teach me that our lives and ministry depend on Him.

I had the opportunity to meet Cecilia in Salta, to share together about our ministries and a little of our lives in the Lord's work. It has been said that Cecilia and I are very alike in our attitude of service for the Lord. Cecilia goes from one place to another, helping here and there. It really is a blessing for the churches that she supports to have a person with so much energy! How does she do so many things? It can only be with the help and strength of the Lord who sustains her to serve in so many different areas.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to go to the Youth Specialties Convention in Buenos Aires. Seeing the programme of workshops I was so excited that I wanted to go to them all, mainly because I'd heard of those leading them. I had read several of their books and was curious to see these passionate people who inspire others in youth ministry. There was one particular workshop with Howard Andruejol that I loved and that summed up the type of youth ministry work that I like to do and to teach others in our Peruvian diocese to do. It was called "Training a new generation of 'strategic and audacious' leaders". It encouraged us as youth leaders to develop a youth ministry that is well organized, visionary and passionate.

My time in Argentina has continued to confirm my calling to serve in youth ministry. Many in our country think that only young people should lead young people and I'm not so young any more! I've already spent many years serving in this ministry but I want to continue to focus on what God is doing. The truth is that my heart continues to have the same passion as twelve years ago when I was a teenager trying to share Christ with other teenagers. To be honest, I continue to remain an uncomplicated young woman but I continue to learn and my heart is passionate and I will continue to dedicate myself to serving young people for as long as God gives me the opportunity.

Many thanks to SAMS Ireland for their continued support. May God continue to greatly bless the lives and ministries of all involved.



# Redbox

## project

WRITTEN BY CECILIA VALDIVIEZO

**I**n the last Buena Vista I told you about two future volunteers that were coming, they finally arrived, one in August (Sonya Brown) and the other one in September (Gemma Bankhead). Sonya was with me for five weeks and Gemma is here until December. I must admit they have been such a blessing.

In Salta I support a church called El Circulo every Tuesday and I preach once a month and help with the youth group. I also help my own church with some discipleship and youth meetings. In my home I still have my youth group meetings.

As part of my work, I visit different schools with a programme which evaluates our values. It has been a blessing because two schools want us to work next year with them throughout the whole year because they have lots of problems with drugs and pregnancy so we have lots to do in 2011, so pray for us!

I am concluding another year of my distance learning course at Bible College. What a lovely opportunity for me to keep learning! As you can see I have several areas of work which means I move from one place to the other, but always with a big smile because I love what I do, and I couldn't do it without your support.....thank you so much for being with me.

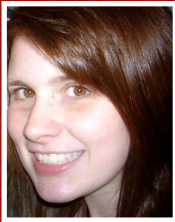
### Prayer Points

- Thank God for the resources he provides us so the projects can go on.
- Thank God for the opportunity we have to enter the schools.
- Thank God because I will be able to spend four days in the mountains for a break as he provided me the right time and the finance.
- Ask God for a helper to develop the work.
- Ask God to keep providing me with strength, faith and passion for his work.



# SONYA BROWN

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*Sonya Brown, a student from Belfast Bible College and a member of Carryduff Parish, is now home after serving a short-*

*term study placement with SAMS in Northern Argentina.*

During my first week in Salta I felt really alone and as I speak no Spanish, it didn't help matters! Thankfully, once I started getting involved in the community projects and meeting people, my whole experience of Salta changed! Every day brought new experiences and I was constantly being challenged and pushed beyond what I thought I was capable of. I am so grateful to have got to meet local people through working in a soup kitchen and at the local hospital. I learnt lots from spending time at the soup kitchen, meeting the drug addicts and hearing about their lives. From my first time there I could feel God's Spirit at work and I continue

to pray for the transformation of the lives of the people there. The majority of the people I met were open to receiving prayer. From these projects, God has opened my eyes and I am now challenged to consider why I don't visit my own local hospital or cook lunch for drug addicts here at home where I actually speak the language!!

I also had the opportunity to observe Cecilia's (Red Box Coordinator with SAMS) work during my time in Northern Argentina, which although I didn't understand a word of what was going on, I learnt a lot by just being in the various meetings. It was great getting a chance to meet some of the people Cecilia ministers to.

I can't believe my time in Salta has concluded! God has really blessed my time here and I have a lot to think about and to reflect on now that I'm back in Belfast.

Sonya Brown



# FUSION EXPERIENCE

Written by Cristian Ascui  
(Fusion Volunteer)

“ my FUSION  
experience has been  
awesome; it has been  
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**FUSION** Volunteer Cristian Ascuí has concluded his placement and the following are some of his reflections.

As I evaluate my experience of being part of the **SAMS FUSION** initiative, it's hard to summarize all the things that have been going on for the last 10 months in only a few paragraphs, but I will do my best.

In the very beginning everything was a "wee" bit different. There were a lot of words that I hadn't heard or used before. For example: "dead on", "I hope you're not too bad", "so there you are lad", "all the best" and "that was good craic".

The people here have treated me as one of the family. The warmth, kindness and love have made me feel pretty much as in Chile. My involvement in the church has been extensive, working along with the Rector, Rev Canon Porteus and Rev Hagan by visiting a lot of parishioners, helping in Sunday school and taking part in all of the three services on Sundays. During the week I have been involved with different activities and meetings and of course working, playing, teaching, learning and sharing with the DerryLoran Cubs.

I can say that my **FUSION** experience has been awesome; it has been a time full of blessings. I have learnt new things, got to know new people and all this has helped me to grow in a spiritual and personal way.

Even though not everything was always good (sprained ankle, death of my best friend in Chile and the earthquake in Chile) I felt the love of God through the people of Cookstown. I would like to say thank you very much to everyone for this great time.

In order to finish I would like to leave with you a Bible verse to encourage you in the continued growth and work of the church:

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:42-45





# FUSION

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

The SAMS Ireland **FUSION** programme aims to give participants the opportunity to encounter the church in Ireland within a supportive environment. It creates new experiences, new opportunities and new challenges. It provides the setting in which volunteers experience mission and cultural diversity first-hand. Participants from Argentina, Chile, Paraguay Uruguay and Spain have already made considerable contributions throughout Ireland and the UK.

**Jacqueline McCallum** from Argentina is placed in the diocese of Derry & Raphoe. Jacqueline is working in St. Canice's parish, Eglington with Canon John Blair.

**Oscar Leon** from Chile is placed in the diocese of Down & Dromore. Oscar works in St Jude's parish, Belfast alongside Canon Norman Jardine

**Gerardo, Suyai & Tomas Gimpel** from Chile are in the diocese of Down & Dromore. They are ministering in a full-time placement in Knockbreda parish, Belfast with Archdeacon Philip Patterson.

**Saray Martin** from Spain continues to assist Rev Francis Rutledge in Primacy parish in Bangor, Down and Dromore diocese.

## THE CHALLENGE

is not to see what lies **vaguely at a distance**,  
but to do ***what lies clearly at hand.***

# THE 34TH MAN

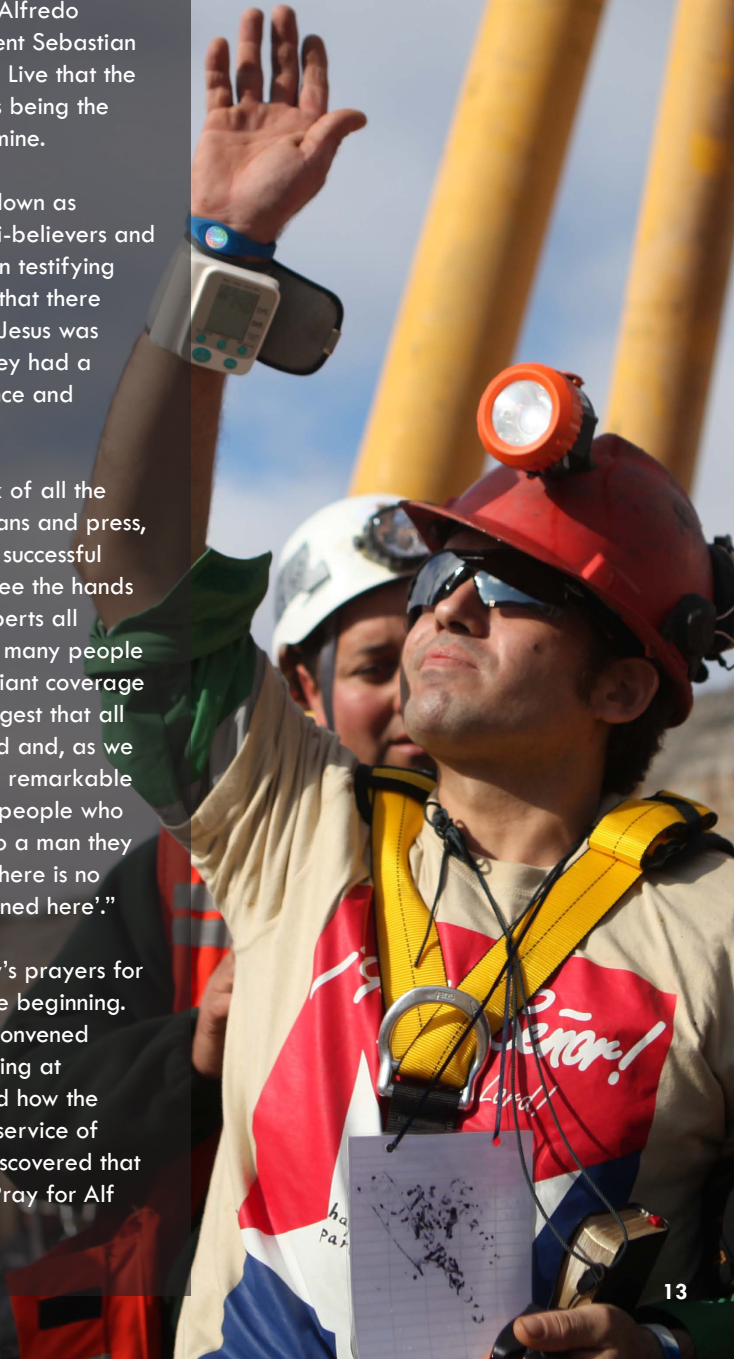
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SAMS prayer partner, Rev Alfredo Cooper, chaplain to President Sebastian Pinera, told BBC Radio Five Live that the miners had a sense of Jesus being the 34th man in the collapsed mine.

“Many of the miners went down as atheists, unbelievers or semi-believers and they have come up to a man testifying that there were not 33 but that there were 34 down there - that Jesus was there with them and that they had a constant sense of his presence and guidance.”

Alf paid tribute to the work of all the scientists, engineers, politicians and press, who had contributed to the successful rescue of the miners. “We see the hands of all these magnificent experts all around, the good will of so many people internationally and the brilliant coverage of the press. We would suggest that all this works together for good and, as we prayed, God has guided in remarkable ways. I was with the NASA people who came, and to my surprise, to a man they all said, ‘This is a miracle. There is no other word for what happened here’.”

Alf helped lead the country’s prayers for the trapped miners since the beginning. He described how he had convened an emergency prayer meeting at the presidential palace, and how the president had asked for a service of thanksgiving when it was discovered that the miners were still alive. Pray for Alf and his ministry in Chile.



# RUN THE RACE

WRITTEN BY CLAIRE HOLMES

In September, Stephen Trew and I ran the Dublin Half Marathon. (It is so easy compared to a full one). The Bible talks a lot about running the race, and running a long distance race has a lot to teach us about the Christian life – training, endurance, focus, and the importance of encouragement and support and cheering each other on. There is also a sense of “We are all in this together” even with people you don’t know.

That “We are all in this together” on our Christian walk is important as through the marathon I raised almost £600.00 for SAMS and specifically for the work of the church in Concepcion. The team there work with hundreds of children and young people every week, as well as adults, in five areas of the town, and travel large distances to country areas. Faithfully they are teaching them God’s Word, shining his light and showing his love in practical ways. The work costs money even for such

things as transport to the different areas, and they appreciate us joining in this with them, encouraging and supporting and cheering them along. We run the race and keep the faith together with those in other parts of the world. Thank you to all those who supported this.

Another way of supporting and spurring each other on, of running the race together, is through prayer. Prayer is such an important part of mission, as it is of the Christian life, and it is a powerful weapon. In SAMS Ireland you can receive a bi-monthly prayer request booklet called “Prayer lines.” This can be received by post or downloaded from the SAMS website. We are also sending out an update with prayer requests about every fortnight. If you would like to receive this by e-mail, or indeed by post, please let us know.





# Winter Fire

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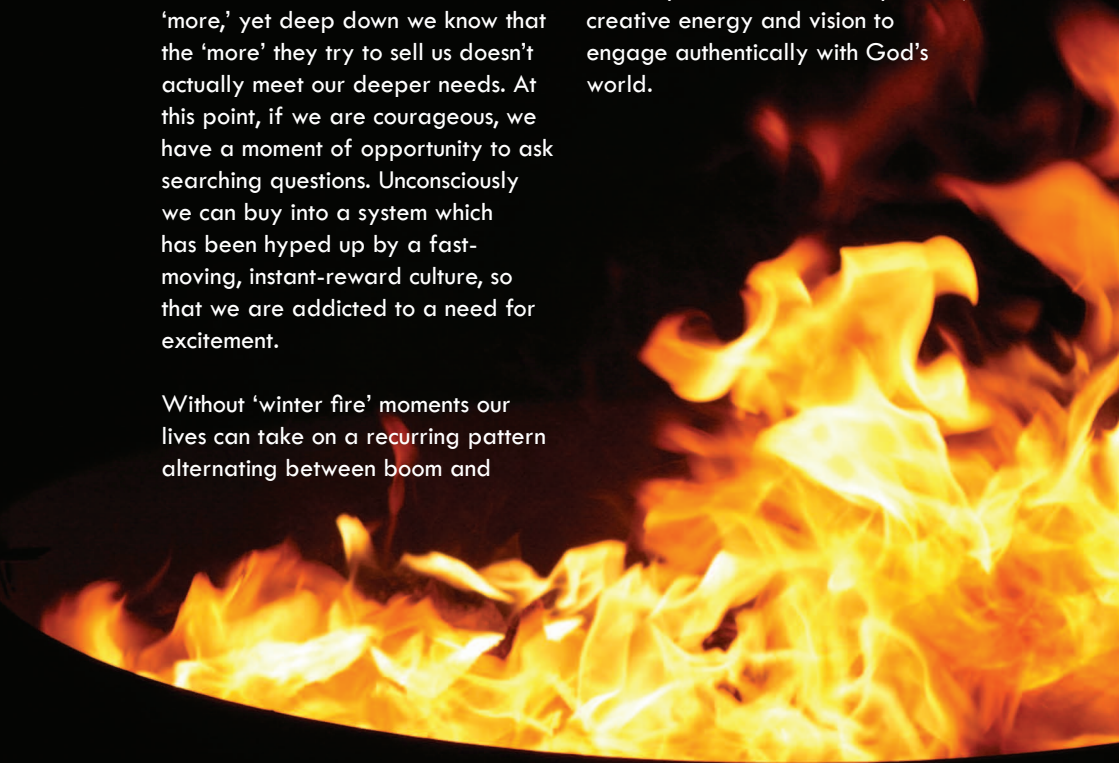
Take a moment and remind yourself of one of the greatest things about the winter months – a real fire! This is challenging if you don't have a real fire so, find one and then switch off all the so-called advancements of modern technology and take a few moments to just stare at the fire and be still.

Constantly we are influenced by advertisers and the media to seek 'more,' yet deep down we know that the 'more' they try to sell us doesn't actually meet our deeper needs. At this point, if we are courageous, we have a moment of opportunity to ask searching questions. Unconsciously we can buy into a system which has been hyped up by a fast-moving, instant-reward culture, so that we are addicted to a need for excitement.

Without 'winter fire' moments our lives can take on a recurring pattern alternating between boom and

bust. The bubble bursts and we seek the next hit as we deny our inner turmoil. Through rest the human soul is refreshed, creativity re-emerges, relationships are strengthened and, most of all, we find space to reflect on how we are living and on our relationship with our Creator and our neighbour!

We need to stop and find rest. Only that way will we find the inspiration, creative energy and vision to engage authentically with God's world.





## BUENA VISTA

### PRAY FOR:

**Cecilia Valdiviezo** – Red Box Project Coordinator.

**Lizbeth Varillas** – Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinator Peru.

**Nick & Catherine Drayson** – serving in Northern Argentina.

**Peter & Sally Bartlett** – serving in Paraguay.

**Andres Rodrigez** – serving in Concepcion.

**Dani & Flavia Lescano** – training for ministry in Argentina.

**Gonzalo & Leticia Soria** – serving in Uruguay.

**Hugo Vergara** – Diocesan manager in Northern Argentina.

**Edmeia Williams** – manages the Dona Marta project in Brazil.

**Alf Cooper** – serving in Chile.

**James Palmer** - teaching theology in Chile.

**Marcus & Tamara Throup** – serving in North East Brazil.

**Andrew & Maria Leake** – serving in Salta, Northern Argentina.

**Teaching opportunities for Primary & Secondary teachers in Paraguay**

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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 both here in Ireland and overseas.

For further information in confidence contact the SAMS House.

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South American Mission Society

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