

A low-angle photograph of the Statue of the Virgin Mary in Buena Vista, Chile. The statue is white and depicts the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. Her right arm is raised, holding a staff. The background is a clear, bright blue sky.

sams

IRELAND

South American Mission Society

Buena Vista - Summer 08

BUENA VISTA

Aspiring to be a praying, serving, affirming, listening,
partnering and transforming mission agency.

Dear Friends



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Welcome to the new SAMS Ireland update "Buena Vista." You will see from the articles and news items included here that the work of SAMS Ireland is growing and as an organisation we continue to evolve. You as a valued supporter are very important to us as we firmly believe in the idea of the "SAMS Family". Friday Night Live has become a major event in the church calendar and due to the growing numbers the 2009 event will be held in Craigavon Civic Centre on Friday 6th February, so I would encourage you to put this date in your diary. SAMS is committed to working in partnership with churches in Ireland, Iberia and South America and in this changing world we passionately believe that

the message of the Gospel remains relevant. Please keep up to date with developments by visiting our website : www.samsireland.com. Be encouraged and keep on praying. Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours in Him

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Denis Johnston
General Secretary

fusion

participate * learn * develop

The SAMS **fusion** programme offers placements to people from Iberia and South America within a church setting in Ireland. This is an evolving and exciting development which aspires to challenge, encourage and resource future South American leaders.



Pamela Gomez

It is difficult to be able to describe in such little words all the things I am experiencing in Ireland. It is the first time that I have left South America and I couldn't have had a better opportunity to serve God.

I worked all of 2007 in different jobs in Argentina, in the morning and evening from Monday to Friday and at the weekends I sold empanandas (typical Argentine food) to save money to be able to buy my flight ticket. God has really blessed me from the moment I knew that I had the opportunity to come to this country and God has opened many doors so that I can come. I arrived here on the 26th January with Cecilia Valdiviezo, the youth leader in my church; with the aim of helping in a local church as a SAMS volunteer, over a period of 6 months, serving in various ways. I did not know what

God had prepared; experiencing a different culture, language, food and climate, but I knew that He was going to be beside me and that I would never leave His hand.

At the minute I have already been here for 4 months and I can now say so much more in English than in my first week! I have been working in a church in Annaghmore (between Dungannon and Portadown) where I have made new friends and truthfully a new Irish family. I am living with Dorothy McVeigh who is the Minister of the local Anglican Church. She is such a lovely person who treats me like a sister and I admire her for her work and dedication. I am working in the church doing various activities. I am helping in the Sunday School, during the week I am teaching Spanish to the group that is going to come to visit my country as part of the SAMS Ireland 'Beyond the Norm' programme in 2009. I am also helping in many other activities in the church. Nothing is more pleasing than serving God.

In the little time that I have been here I am able to say that I have grown in my relationship with God.

Each day I give thanks to God for the opportunity He has given me to be able to live like I currently am and for strengthening my spiritual and personal life because this is an unforgettable experience. I lost my father when I was 7 years old, he died from a heart attack and suddenly he was no longer with us. It was very difficult throughout childhood to accept and understand why all the other kids had a complete family and I was living only with my mother and sisters. When my father was alive we had all we needed but when he died we were practically homeless with no money so my mother had to work and my sisters and I helped.

In everything God never left us, we have a house and we are all healthy. God showed me that in everything he has a purpose. He made me understand that even when my father and mother have left me, He is my refuge in everything. He is my father who spoils me and amazes me every day, and it is for this reason that there is no better way of showing thanks than working for His glory. Being here as part of the SAMS fusion programme is very important. I am so happy to be to be experiencing life in Ireland developing relationships and being blessed by numerous people who look after me! Thank you so much for being my family here and I trust God will bless your life as he has done for me. God loves you and has a plan for your life. You only need to put your hope in Him and listen to his voice.

Pamela Gomez



Pray for Pamela as she returns to Argentina on July 13th and the development of the **fusion** and **Red Box project**.



Samuel Lago

As a Chilean living in Belfast initially things seemed so different and challenging. At least, that's what I thought a week into the work. But time has gone by, and it has made a load of difference! I really enjoy life here and it's been great to see the many different things that God is teaching me, both through the work itself as well as the people I encounter on a day-to-day basis.

I'm currently serving within the parish of All Saints in Belfast. I've been able to gain some "time-management" skills, it's important in ministry to get the administration work done quickly, as you can spend more time caring for people! Thank you SAMS for this opportunity.

Samuel



Esteban Alvarez

I am 25 years old and I am from South America. My plan this year was to work in my home church in Chile for one year and then go to Bible College. But God had a different plan for me as I am now in Craigavon working as a volunteer in St Saviour's, Church of Ireland, through SAMS.

My home church in Chile is a new church plant in Santiago. During these last 5 years I have been part of the leadership of the youth ministry and a member of the vestry.

In my adopted church in Northern Ireland I am getting involved in as much as I can, and I'm really thankful to God for the evangelist in charge Myrtle Morrison, because she is an example for me. My work here has been serving through Sunday school, mum and tots group, kids club, youth fellowship, worship and visitations.

Thank you.

Esteban

If your church is interested in participating within the **fusion** programme then please contact SAMS and we will update you on possible participants.



beyond the norm

Aims & Objectives

- Affirm the work of the church in South America.
- Enable people from Ireland to participate in a church community in South America.
- Wrestle with issues such as mission, cultural diversity and the impact of globalisation.
- Create new experiences, new opportunities, and new friendships.
- Develop effective working relationships between churches in Ireland and South America.

An essential part of Jesus' ministry was prayerful reflection. In our busy 21st century lives we need to stop and remind ourselves that prayerful reflection isn't optional. Without it we are in danger of creating God in our own culture bound image.

Pray with us this summer as over 60 people will participate on the **'beyond the norm'** programme. May this Latin encounter be a significant time enabling volunteers to work within a different cultural context and share with the Church in South America be a time of immense service, reflection and learning. As

volunteers return to their home churches may they be envisioned and encouraged to engage within their local community's continuing the adventure of mission.

The **btn** programme aims to give participants the opportunity to encounter South America within a supportive environment. Participants are not isolated individuals; they form part of a team within a local community so pray for the team leaders, volunteers and local communities in which they serve.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

Lisburn Cathedral

Connor

Red Box Project, Argentina

28th June to 19th July

Team leader Jonny Best

Down & Dromore Youth

La, Caldera, Argentina

4th July to 26th July

Team leader Stephen Trew

Dungannon & Fivemiletown

St Anne's / St Elizabeth's Armagh

St John's Clogher

Red Box Project, Argentina

24th July to 15th August

Team Leader Jo Hamilton

Love For Life

Asuncion & Concepcion, Paraguay

1st August to 17th August

Team Leaders Hannah Collins & Alison Crawford

Following up the Love for Life Paraguay 2007

Craigavon & Dollingstown

St Saviour's & St Saviour's

Down & Dromore

Paraguay, Asuncion

9th July to 1st August

Team Leader David Orritt

Ahoghill, Eglinton & Bunbeg

St Colmanell's Connor

St Canice's Derry

St Patrick's Raphoe

Paraguay, Concepcion

1st August to 23rd August

Team Leader Colin Primrose

Opportunities

Opportunities

St. Andrew's School Asuncion is looking for nursery, primary and secondary teachers. Teachers of English as a second language are required at all levels and teachers of GCSE and A Level subjects are also required in Secondary. No Spanish is required as language training is provided.

St. Paul's School in Vina del Mar, Chile is looking for English assistants.

A three month placement is available working with children in Lima, Peru.

Please contact SAMS Ireland for more details.

Please pray for...

New teachers and those overseeing educational institutes.

Claire Holmes - as she resources children's and youth ministry.

Gayle Stevenson and **Elaine Hutchinson** - as they settle back into life at home.

Naomi Francey, Megan Johnston and **Helen King** - on gap year placements with the Red Box project.

The summer 08 btn programme which enables community participation within a South American context.

The training & resourcing of future leaders.

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