



[WWW.SAMSUKIRELAND.COM](http://WWW.SAMSUKIRELAND.COM)

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan, Craigavon, BT66 7EZ

E: [info@samsukireland.com](mailto:info@samsukireland.com) | T: 028 3831 0144

“

Mission goes beyond our comfort zones and enters other people's stories, as Christ entered ours.

”

Claire**Holmes**



## Claire **Holmes**

Claire Holmes is no stranger to Paraguay. Claire's first Paraguayan encounter was back in 1994 when she worked for several years in the pre-school department of Colegio San Andrés in the capital Asunción. In 1999 Claire returned to Paraguay as part of a SAMS BTN team which went to Concepción (located roughly 6 hours by bus north of Asunción). During the 3 week visit, God called Claire to work in Concepción. Claire worked there as part of the church team for 8 years specialising in children's ministry. In total Claire has already served in Paraguay for 14 years.

Claire returned to Concepción in July 2012 to continue serving with the Anglican church in Paraguay. She is undertaking a new role which seeks to create opportunities to involve people in discipleship training. This new role will include resourcing existing areas of ministry and launching new types of ministries. It will also provide support to local church volunteers and leaders through developing training resources, in particular in the area of leadership training. Claire will work in partnership with Andrés Rodriguez in Concepción (Auxiliary Bishop) and Peter Bartlett in Asunción (Diocesan Bishop). As a mission agency, SAMS is thankful and excited to have you as part of the praying team.



*Claire in Concepción*

# Paraguay Overview

## Location

Paraguay is a landlocked country located in the centre of South America. It borders Bolivia and Brazil on the north, Brazil to the east, Argentina to the south, and Bolivia and Argentina to the west. It has a total land area of 157,048 square miles. It is sometimes referred to as the “Heart of America”, owing to its central location in the continent.

## Terrain

Paraguay is divided naturally by the river Paraguay. To the west of the river is the flat deposit of the Gran Chaco, a vast plain which extends from Paraguay into Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil. This whole region is characterized by grasslands, swamps, and sparse bush coverage. The eastern area consists mainly of plains with rainforest-like vegetation and is drained by the tributaries of the Paraguay and Paraná rivers.

## Climate

Located on the Tropic of Capricorn, Paraguay enjoys a climate that varies from temperate to hot during the majority of the year, with an average temperature of 25°C. Summers are long, with temperatures that reach 45°C and winters are mild and short.



## Population

6.5 million

## Capital

Asunción

## Area

157,048 sq miles (406,752 sq km)

## Major languages

Spanish & Guaraní

# Prayer **Points**

## **Focus**

There will be many pressing needs. Pray for Claire to stay focused on God and His plans above all else. (Matthew 6:33)

## **Faithfulness**

There will be numerous time demands. Pray that Claire will allocate time to read and study the Bible. (2 Timothy 2:15)

## **Humility**

There will be challenging circumstances. Pray for Claire to have a spirit of humility and to willingly ask God for wisdom in carrying out her various responsibilities. (James 1:5)

## **Boldness**

There will be amazing opportunities. Pray for boldness as Claire shares the good news of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 6:19)

## **Rest**

There will be times of exhaustion. Ask God to help Claire recognize her need for rest away from the various ministry responsibilities. (Mark 6:31)

## **Prayer**

There will be times of busyness. Ask God to help Claire protect her private time for prayer. (Acts 6:4)

## **Peace**

There will be times of distress. Pray for Claire to give all her anxious thoughts to God and pray that she will rest in His peace. (Philippians 4:6-7)

## **Hunger**

There will be times of spiritual drought. Ask God to give Claire a renewed hunger and thirst for Him and for His word. (Hebrews 5:14)

## **Persistence**

There will be intense heat and at times a tiring context to work within. Pray for endurance and stamina for Claire in her ministry. (Philippians 3:14)

## **Team spirit**

There will be the need to work in partnership. Ask God to build a strong team in Concepción through Claire's teaching and resourcing ministry. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

**If you would like to participate with SAMS through receiving prayer updates on Claire's ministry, or financially supporting Claire's work in Paraguay, please contact SAMS.**