

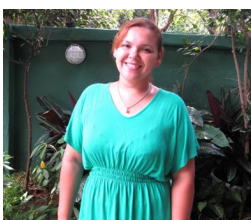
Pabla Martinez lives in a very simple house on the outskirts of the capital, Asuncion. Her father is a builder with no fixed income and her mother is a housewife. Pabla herself works as a helper in a nursery and only receives the equivalent of £65 a month.



Laura Pereira is the eldest of 5 siblings who all live with their mother in a very small, precarious house. Their father no longer lives with them, nor does he support the family in any way. Their mother tries to make a living as a dressmaker. Laura herself has been working as an unpaid helper in her church's Sun Beams Preschool, for 3 years. The church gives her the equivalent of £35 monthly towards her studies and travel expenses.



Sheila Bordón is also the eldest of 5 siblings, who live with their parents in a very precarious house. Their father makes a living helping in the maintenance of the church. Their mother goes from house to house, selling whatever she can get hold of such as cleaning materials or cheap jewellery. Sheila helps out with secretarial work in the church's Sun Beams Preschool. The church gives her the equivalent of £21 monthly towards her studies.



Cynthia de González is the mother of 2 children who live in a very small house. Her husband works for the Ministry of Health and Cynthia has been working as the unpaid preschool teacher in the church's Sun Beams Preschool for 3 years. The church has promised to support her with £35 monthly.

We thought to help you understand what the above salaries mean, we need to explain something about the cost of living here. Our FEISA fees come to around £50 a month. The minimum worker's salary is around £223 a month, while a qualified infant teacher here, in the highest paying schools, earns only £145 monthly (unfortunately infant teachers are amongst the lowest paid in the educational world, and are paid even less than the minimum salary). A humble church school such as the Sun Beams Preschool, mentioned above, would not have a very high income, and dedicated teachers in some areas of Paraguay do have a history of teaching without a salary and depending on their family to support them. You can therefore understand just how much their half scholarship means to these students and so once more, thank you so much for all your prayers and financial support! In our April letter, we'll tell you more about other students who are able to study with us thanks to your support, and we'll also share a little about how we celebrate Holy Week in our country.

We'd like to finish this letter with a wonderful passage from Psalm 145: 3-5

"Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise: His greatness no-one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will speak of your glorious works."

Gloria and Ana