

THE VERGARA SUMMER 2013 PRAYER LETTER



It seems incredible, but summer is already coming to an end (and for you spring is arriving). Time goes by so quickly. On 1st February we completed 25 years of our vocation to full-time service on Northern Argentina. If we add on the time doing medical work, it makes 33 years.

It has been a long time, but the Lord has upheld us and we have been able to see churches born and people being changed. But at the same time we feel drained by the journey, and even though our sabbatical in 2010 is still fresh in our minds, it is as if the heat of the road has been tiring us out once again.

In the middle of all the hustle and bustle we are in fact continuing to pastor three churches, San Andres, San Pablo and Grace Church in Tucuman.

Pastoral Teams. For more than 25 years the Churches supported themselves and worked for growth through committees, but in reality these groups were committees for administration, which (in most cases) did not work together well with the leaders, and conflicts would arise. For this reason we have now formed pastoral teams who are really involved in developing the ministerial work, while leaving the Church Councils to be administrative committees.

This is happening in the three Churches for which I am responsible, and we are seeing significant changes which have made the development of our vision possible. The Churches have indeed grown in recent years, thank God, but now we are very happy to see many people committed to making a significant impact on their area.

Young People. During the summer camps we saw God's hand at work in the lives of the young people under the ministry of Silvine McDonald and her husband Adrian.



Young people at their last camp

It is crucial to pray for them as they are an essential part of the leadership of the Church. Feliciano, Gabriela, Maru, Andres and Marcos are the San Andres team of leaders, Matias, Judith, Elisa and Andres are the team in Tucuman, Rodrigo and five other young people in the Church in Juarez, and Emiliano and Juan at Principe de Paz. Pray for conviction and steadfastness for them. This year we will be focusing particularly on evangelistic outreach and the discipling of other young people.



People newly drawn in and committed

Please pray for the pastoral teams:

A. San Andres: Daniel, Flavia, Teresa (Techy), Graciela Iovino, Hans and Priscilla Breekveldt.

B. San Pablo, Ceferino: Marta Avila, Lucio Reynaga, Analia Suarez.

C. Grace Church: Pablo Ontiveros, Oscar Marecos, Federico Tomskin, Paola Apud.

Special ministries that need prayer:

- a) **EME (Encuentro de Mujeres en el Espíritu – Women Meeting in the Spirit).** This has brought a great many new women into each of the Churches. It will take place once again on 21st April.
- b) **Men's Group.** This group has grown and is also leading men to be more committed to playing a part in the life of the Church.



Men's Meetings and Confirmation

- c) One final and crucial activity, **the development of the Church's prayer life**, through Connection 24 which is now coming into being. We are having 48 hours of continuous prayer at Easter, and it is designed to become a regular event. This unbroken chain of prayer in one Church begins with Holy Communion and ends with praise and worship. It is happening once a month, but we want to do it every week. We are seeing the fruits of it and a desire to get involved despite the sacrifice required. That has happened in San Andres and Principe de Paz but we want to extend it to all the Churches in the urban area.
- d) **Other topics.** Pray for our physical, spiritual and emotional renewal, and also that the Lord will protect us and bless us in our travelling. One special subject for prayer is Techy's passport, which is still blocked.
- e) **The urban pastoral meeting**, where we will decide on goals for the urban work in 2013.
- f) **The clergy**, and especially for **Miguel Solis' ordination to the priesthood** in Principe de Paz.
- g) **San Pablo Church, Ceferino**, an area where drugs, violence and prostitution are rife, and ministry and evangelism have become dangerous. Pray particularly for Lucio, Aroldo and Marta there.
- h) **My wife's ministry.** Techy has steadfastly kept up her work in Grand Bourg, a very poor suburb where the women very courageously bear witness and have a great impact on the neighbourhood.
- i) **The essential marriage ministry** which we are continuing. We have seen long-standing marriages in dire trouble (and sadly some divorces too).

I'd like to close with a verse which has been an encouragement in my life from the wonderful Psalm 84: 'As they pass through the valley of tears, they make it a spring. They go from strength to strength till they see the Lord in Zion.' It's a 'virtuous circle' which depends not on circumstances but on the Spirit of God.

HUGO AND TECHY