

News from Salta

28th August 2011

Dear Friends,

In this letter I would like to concentrate on the work in Principe de Paz Church, which has just celebrated its 21st anniversary. In 1989 we began to engage in evangelism among the students in the university, and soon there were 50 of them meeting regularly in our house. We discussed setting up a Church there, and the then bishop agreed that we should have a new building for worship near the university, and also a hostel for students.

Thus the Church was set up in Ciudad del Milagro near the university in 1990 and launched on 9th July of that year, with a largely student congregation, although local families were invited to join, and a few did. For fifteen years the great majority of the Church were students, but then they began to graduate and move away for work and the Church declined. Many of the leaders left and only three remained. In 2000 the closure of the Church was considered, but the faithful work of three ladies enabled it to continue, and before long the fellowship started to grow again. Now there are many families but few students in the congregation.



Miguel preaching at the Anniversary service



Emy and Carmen leading worship

One of the students from the early days, Miguel Solis, is now the leader of the Church, together with myself and Nide Marquez, who came into the Church in 1990 with her family and is now a deacon. Another of the non-students who joined at the beginning is Nelly Gil, who grew up as a Roman Catholic and is now on the P.C.C., at the age of 75, and another of the first fruits of the ministry with the students was Carmen Paterson, who now leads the Sunday worship with her two sons Emy and Jony.

FUTURE GOALS FOR PRINCIPE DE PAZ:

1. Reestablishing a vision for student work and training a group of students for evangelism in the university.
2. Setting up an Alpha Course for university students (a training day has already been held with a consultant from Buenos Aires).
3. Encouraging the leaders of the Church in all the pastoral work needed, especially Miguel, who also has a secular job.



Miguel and Carmen

A BIT OF NEWS FROM TUCUMAN

The members of the Church in Tucuman have now begun to build the new multi-purpose room on the premises in order to help them to reach out to the students of that city, but they have run into some difficulties there, so that needs more prayer too. And please pray especially for Matias, Pablo, Oscar, Natalia, Judit and Nicolas, who are all students in

Tucuman and committed members of the Anglican Church, and for their evangelism in the university there. Judit and Nicolas in particular are vital for the future, as they are involved both in the leading of worship and in the young people's work.



Matias, Judit and Nicolas

A FEW MORE THINGS

The E.J.E. weekend for young people and the E.M.E. day for women are both taking place around about now, both reaching out to new contacts beyond the Church, so we are planning to follow them up by enlisting as many as possible of those who were invited to both events in Alpha Courses, and we would appreciate your prayers for this.



We are much concerned about the weekly Bible class for children in Grand Bourg, a mostly poor area on the edge of Salta which desperately needs a lot of mission on the part of the Church. The class has been running for over a year now, led by two of the San Andres young people, with the support of two Striders. But the Striders' time here has almost finished, so we really need some more people to help Eli and Fernando, who are very enthusiastic and very popular with the children. But we are having great difficulty finding the right people to go to Grand Bourg with them in the future, so please pray about that too.

Nick Drayson has been appointed the new Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Argentina, so please pray for him and Catherine, especially as she has just had a serious operation in Britain and will need to recover from that before she can return here. Pray too for the team who will be working together in this new stage of the mission of the Anglican Church in this country.

Finally, please pray for renewal in strength for myself and my family, as I am the only full-time pastor here, and also for Dany and Flavia, who will be coming back to Salta in December to join the work here.

With many thanks to you all, and wishing you every blessing,

Hugo Vergara.