

# Caroline's News

## The Anglican Diocese of Paraguay

### June 2009



South American Mission Society

I've just had a very exciting week - mostly about books. Guess what? I'm involved with another library!

New things are happening in the diocese. Amongst the chair legs, you see our Assistant Bishop from Concepción (left) and Teo Rivas (right), diocesan administrator. It was Teo's idea to collect up old, unused furniture and sell it to raise money for books for the diocesan library. There was hardly time to balance the bookcases and chairs before people starting bargaining for them.

I can do lots of co-ordinating for the Mission Paraguay projects by being in the office 2- 3 days a week. There, we're in the early stages of renovating an antique collection of books - last in full use in the 1960s. We had a clear-out of old paperbacks and the young people in the photo were hugely enthusiastic. They're increasingly giving talks in churches and leading bible studies and I'm hoping they will be the library users of the future.



We've got about 40 young people and 20 adults across 7 diocesan churches preaching, teaching or learning who all need books to make progress. Working out how to make this library work for a very diverse selection of readers is quite a challenge. Help came in the shape of John Wigfield of SAMS who gave a talk on the very relevant messages in Deuteronomy and Leviticus concerning our relationship to God, the planet and the poor. It made a great impact on everyone, specially the young people. Unjust land issues are critical in Paraguay. There are constant, often violent, demonstrations.

With the benefit of his experience in theological education in Spain and other South American countries, he was able to suggest useful contacts for study courses and books. In the space of two short hours, John helped me move on the renovation plan in a way that nobody else could. The meeting was so encouraging. God sent him along at just the right time.

Thank you to all who faithfully remembered Paraguay and prayed for rain. We're thanking God that over the last week more than 100mm fell in various parts of the country, most importantly in the indigenous communities. They now have enough water to last them for the next few months. It felt odd a while back during the drought planning for the construction of a new water cistern to store rain water but now we're vindicated in the best way.

My gardening: The basil is shooting up, the oregano is hovering. I've planted rosemary herb seeds the size of pepper dust. I learn that germination takes 40 days or never, full growth takes 3 years. I feel rather cheated; it didn't say this on the packet! Patience is needed but that's never bad.

**God bless from Paraguay, Caroline**

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