

## Land for Life

*Fundación Refugio*

*Circular No. 21 June 2013*

### Land for Life update

We have once again completed the extraordinary paperwork, this time for 2012, required just to keep our charity (Fundación Refugio) legally registered and up to date with the various authorities, including the tax man. We will have another attempt at getting a bank account once our papers have been officially accepted, though we honestly don't hold out much hope of success as we appear to hit a glass ceiling on this issue. The fact that we cannot yet move money formally is leading us to question how worthwhile it will be to keep the charity functioning.

The last couple of months have been relatively quiet in terms of Land for Life work. Andrew has been away (see below), as has his colleague Marcelo (involved in an ongoing census of the endangered vicuña high up in the altiplano). We have continued to monitor and catalogue applications for deforestation, data which will eventually be used in a report we aim to prepare and publish at the end of the year.

St. Paul's Church (St. Albans - UK) has given us permission to reallocate the funding they had provided for our proposed research on birds in the Chaco (see Circular 18). The funds will now be used for a church-based survey on the perception of indigenous peoples on the effects of climate change in the Chaco. We are seeking additional funds, and are pleased to say that the project has been taken on board as part of the Diocese of Carlisle's Harvest appeal. We aim to initiate that work in September.

### Travels and other work

Andrew was in Africa in April, and then again in May. He was carrying out research work for Compassion International, which included travel to Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ethiopia (one night!), Uganda and Tanzania. A major bonus this time round was that whilst in Uganda he stayed with his sister, Judith, and her husband, Ken, who live in Kampala. It was good to see them again!

As Andrew travelled to and from Africa via London, he was able to visit to St. Luke's Church, in Bath, one of several UK Churches that support our work here in Argentina. He was also able to pop into St. Paul's (the Leake's home Church) in St. Albans, and by mere coincidence (God-incidence?) was able to take part in a group session focused on Creation Care.



*Participants at the Pastoral Familiar – Morillo June 2103.  
Bishop James – Carlisle (far right)*

A couple of days after he got home Andrew drove (along with the visiting Bishop of Carlisle and his wife) to the Chaco to participate in another Pastoral Familiar workshop for indigenous Christian leaders. During the trip they had a near (head on) miss with a truck that veered into their lane. Thankfully, Andrew (who, unlike the other driver, was awake) was able to avert the collision. The next day he came across what appeared to be the same vehicle overturned on the side of the road.

One of Andrew's tasks in this meeting was to outline many of the environmental changes that are affecting the Chaco and the way these changes are affecting families and children. The workshop participants gave positive feedback on how these sessions are enabling them to mobilize their Church congregations to engage with children.

## Family news

Tomás and Cecilia have been snowed under with studies and exams. Both of them are doing well, but find the high workloads very tiring. They are looking forward to a short break in the UK, and a quick visit to grandparents in Mallorca in July. At the time of writing this letter Maria is accompanying them in Cordoba whilst Andrew focuses on report writing back in Salta. Carolina has done really well in her studies at school which is encouraging. She is currently involved in an inter-school volleyball championship.

Maria is taking cooking lessons, which she is really enjoying. While improving her already excellent skills she is meeting all sorts of new people, ranging from the ex-governor's son to a man who makes his living by selling bread on the streets of Salta.

## UK bound

The Leakes will be travelling to the UK for deputation. They will leave Argentina on the 6<sup>th</sup> July, and travel via the US where they spend a few days in Florida. Maria, Tomás, Ceci and Carolina will be returning to Argentina towards the end of July while Andrew stays on to complete deputation visits. His speaking engagements (updated) are as follows:

14/07/13	Lowestoft AM
21/07/13	Shirley AM
21/07/13	Woodmanstene PM
24/07/13	Cromer PM
28/07/13	Felbridge AM
30/07/13	Aughton PM
04/08/13	Liphook AM
04/08/13	St Albans PM
11/08/13	Exeter AM & PM

## Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks for safety in travel, both in Argentina and further afield
- Continue to pray for the development of the Pastoral Familiar work.
- Pray for the planning and implementation of the church-based survey on environmental and climate change in the Chaco.
- Pray for Carolina, Ceci and Tomás in their studies.
- Give thanks for the loan of a car for us to use during our visit to the UK in July and August

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