

## Link Letter No.2 April 2011

### Dear friends,

**James 2:8:** *If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture "Love your neighbour as yourself", you are doing right.*

Thanks for all your prayers. Life is extremely busy in the school this year so we appreciate your help through your prayers for us.

### The country

The big news at the moment is the dengue epidemic which is raging around us. This year has seen a huge increase in dengue-carrying mosquitoes. We really need your prayers at the moment that the Lord will keep us free from dengue to carry on His work. We are all plastering on repellent at the moment and praying.

Large numbers of people have been going down with dengue everyday and the public hospitals are full of the worst cases. It is called "Break bone" disease. Haemorrhagic dengue can also be a killer and several people have died already.

On Thursday the public hospitals stopped all surgery as the beds were full of dengue patients. The wife of the head of



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our school maintenance team had a very bad case of the haemorrhagic variety. It was the worst case that the Baptist hospital had seen and they documented the case with photographs. With lots of prayers, however, she pulled through and was able to attend her daughter's wedding last week.

### Church life

In our church we are having a bring and buy lunch tomorrow to raise funds to help those in need in our church. Last week there was a terrific sermon on how to be responsible with finances. It was basic but biblical. Many here find it difficult to budget on their small income and so it was a helpful sermon.

Bishop Peter and his wife Sally have arrived back from the UK this weekend.

### School life

The school has been really gearing up for the Bicentenary Year of Paraguayan Independence. In the Primary department, classes are leading assemblies, informing us about different periods of the history. This has been so interesting for us foreigners to learn about. The children have been wonderful as they have acted and performed dances from the various periods of history.

**Indian girls**



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The first graders gave a presentation about the indigenous people here. Some indigenous ladies came to give demonstrations of how they make their wares to sell. There is so much work that goes into their handicrafts and the children listened, spellbound.

The sixth grade informed us about the Colonial settlers and they performed some typical dances from that era. This month, sixth grade team captain candidates were busy campaigning for a week which ended with elections, all run as the national elections are run. The children enjoyed participating in the secret ballot.

In their Bible classes the children have been looking at characteristics of Heroes of the Faith but in the library we have been bookmaking, telling the stories of biblical heroes of the faith.

Last week there was a prizegiving for winners of a competition to photograph and paint pictures of famous buildings in Paraguay.

My classes have now moved into a room near to the library. We will continue my library programme from there, but the children will have access to the library for books. The idea is to enable the library to be used more throughout the school. It is an important resource and I will be happy to see its use develop and grow. A new school librarian will be starting on Monday. Santi, my helper, will continue to assist and help to prepare the new catalogue of our books. Our old catalogue was full and the computer jammed up, so we have received a new computer and programme to start again. It will probably take about a year to complete the catalogue. It took almost a year last time we did it.

#### Prayer points

■ Please pray for the people in the country who have dengue fever. There are many areas where there have been floods and there is stagnant water, a haven for mosquito reproduction. Pray for the weather to become drier. We have had a lot of rain this year. Pray for the local councils and the government as they try to inform about cleanliness and as they fumigate areas. Pray for more people to seek God's help and wisdom in dealing with the situation.



**Top: The secret ballot**  
**Bottom: Competition prize giving**

- Please pray for the staff and children in the school. Several have dengue and one boy was in hospital with it this week. There are several types, some more severe than others, but all are very debilitating and painful.
- Please pray for the older secondary students. A trip into the Chaco has been planned for next week, to help local communities by digging wells etc. Pray safety over them all. Pray also for the staff who will accompany them.
- Pray for the poor. The economy of the country is generally on the rise but that has brought inflation, which is really hitting poor families very hard. I met an ex-annexe school student this week who has had to drop out of university to work and help to support his family. It is sad to see such problems around us. He is desperate and is talking about leaving the country to find better work. He has no idea of the reality of life in other countries, where there is high unemployment. These people clutch at straws.
- Please pray for Bishop Peter as he settles back into his role in the Diocese after furlough. There is much work ahead so pray for good health, energy and lots of wisdom for him. Pray also for Sally, his wife, as she visits various groups in the communities in and near to Asuncion.

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God bless

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