



Mission Paraguay 2016

Yes, it's that time of the year again when members of churches across the UK visit Paraguay to assist the ministry of the local Anglican Church. In July a team of 11 people will be staying at Zeballos Cue on the outskirts of the capital Asunción. This is an area that Mission Paraguay has visited each year since 2005 when we funded the building of a large church premises extension used for youth and children's work including the weekly Saturday meal for over 80 children from needy families. This year from this base we will be travelling to communities in some of the most deprived areas on the outskirts of the city where the church is active to distribute second-hand spectacles; operate sewing workshops; assist with young people's work which will include involvement with the weekly toy library providing the opportunity of learning through play for children with few toys of their own. Some of the team will undertake painting and lightweight building work on church premises and within local communities. Many members of Zeballos Cue church live in an area regularly flooded by the Rio Paraguay after heavy rain. Following last autumn's rains they have been living in wooden huts along a cobbled road for a number of months. For the first two weeks they lived in the open. We will be visiting them and if the situation allows offering some practical support.

Laguna Carpincho is a village within the La Patria Indian community in the Chaco of North West Paraguay reached after a bumpy drive of approximately 80km along an earth road until recently made impassable for weeks by flooding after very heavy rain. After 25 years of work by English missionary Tim Curtis and his team of translators, earlier this year the Bible was published in Enxet, the local language. In La Patria three new deacons were ordained and seven pastoral assistants were licenced a few months ago in a we church built in 2013. This is a thriving Christian community but they are short of church buildings. In August, through Mission Paraguay, four builders from Annaghmore, Northern Ireland will be travelling to Laguna Carpincho to build another new church. We also plan to fund more new homes and toilet facilities for Indian families. Life is difficult in this harsh environment characterised by dense thorn bushes, varied wildlife, often periods of prolonged drought and where summer temperatures are well in excess of 40 degrees. Unsurprisingly the Chaco was christened 'the Green Hell' by some of the first European visitors. There is still no piped water, no drains and only a very limited supply of electricity to a few areas.

Please pray for:

- those travelling to Paraguay this summer giving thanks to God that He has called them to serve Him, for safety in travel, and for His blessing upon their work;
- missionary Chris Hawksbee who regularly visits Chaco communities providing pastoral support, Bible teaching and encourages self-sufficiency projects. Chris will be overseeing the building of the new church;
- Pastor Luis and members of the church at Zeballos Cue.

Thank you so much to everyone for your prayerful support over many years for the work in Paraguay.

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