

## Prayer bulletin from the Diocese of Northern Argentina, mid-May 08

Ten items for praise and prayer

1. We give thanks for the special **Pentecost celebrations** that took place ten days ago in *Vaca Perdida*. Toba-speaking leaders and lay representatives from many parishes in Northwestern Formosa province gathered to be 'inspired'. Bishop David Leake, himself fluent in Toba, was present both days, as was a busload of Tobas from *Ingeniero Juárez*.
2. On Wednesday evening May 14<sup>th</sup> the **Rev Juan Toribio** went to be with the Lord. Pray for his wife Carmen plus the many children and give thanks for the impact of his life for the Kingdom. This Zonal Pastor, Bible translator and the Vice-President of the Committee for Indigenous Pastorate had been hospitalized in *Formosa* with a number of serious ailments, but even so his death came as a surprise to most. The emotional funeral on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> in *Ingeniero Juárez* was attended by many believers and non-believers alike. An obituary by Bob Lunt, the former Coordinator of the Wichi Bible Translation Project and personal friend, called all to emulate Juan's Christian life and witness.
3. **Bishop Greg Venables** is grateful for the Lord's sustaining him on a recent tour through North America. A number of dioceses and parishes in Canada and the US accepted the offer of alternative primatial oversight by the Province of the Southern Cone, so Bishop Greg visited the believers as Primate or Archbishop. These trips were met with severe and public disapproval by the senior leadership of the Episcopal Church and with great delight by the orthodox Anglicans.
4. The **Rev Canon John Sutton** from SAMS GB visited our diocese from May 15-19th. He encouraged missionaries and Latin Partners, engaged in some fact-finding and helped senior diocesan staff with strategic planning. Thank the Lord for his longstanding commitment to biblical Anglicanism in Latin America.
5. We're grateful for your prayers that sustained the second AGM and the meeting of the Diocesan Council last month. The Council has invited an experienced presbyter to become **Suffragan Bishop for the Indigenous Church** and the initial response has been promising. The Provincial House of Bishops also approved, but the Lord needs to continue to confirm and guide; please pray.
6. Three extended Wichi families have expressed to Archdeacon Ignacio Guillaalba their desire to become Anglicans and form a **church-plant**. The clan lives in a community near *Colonia Santa Rosa* (between *La Unión* and *Rivadavia Banda Sur*). Give thanks for growth and pray for the initial discipleship and the practical details to be worked out by CoPA (Committee for Indigenous Pastorate).
7. We praise God for **justice** upheld in the courts of the Formosa province. A disgruntled senior clergyman had initiated a court-case against the diocese alleging formal employment and seeking a compensation worth tens of thousands of dollars. The diligent work of our legal team was accompanied by many prayers.

8. **ASociANA** is currently fighting a court-case for alleged unfair dismissal; please intercede for those involved. Pray for management consultant Fernando Aguilar, as he is completing this month an in-depth report on the role and organizational structure of the foundation. The team of ASociANA employees met for a retreat in the *La Caldera* conference-centre from 12 – 15 May. May God's Spirit continue to inspire them for holistic Christian mission.
9. As of May 20<sup>th</sup> **Ana Alvarez** will take over the role of Coordinator of ASociANA from Chris Wallis. Thank the Lord for all Chris managed to achieve for and with the indigenous communities in the Salta province and pray for Ana as she takes on her new responsibilities. She will be based in *Tartagal*.
10. Archdeacon Hugo Vergara (Coordinator of the Urban Pastorate) invites you to accompany a number of **struggling parishes** in prayer: *Tartagal, Embarcación, San Pedro* and *San Salvador de Jujuy*. They typically consist of a handful of believers led by a lay person. These small congregations have deep historical roots and are extremely faithful to their Anglican churchmanship. Bless them as they try to have an impact for God's Kingdom.