

**PRAYER CALENDAR - Iglesia Anglicana Paraguaya - April 2008**

*Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not men.....It is the Lord Christ you are serving." 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful...pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..."*

1. Give thanks for a very inspiring Easter service at **St. Andrew's School** & for the blessing of the re-ordered San Andres church/cathedral building which facilitates these events. Give thanks too for the freedom in both **St. Andrew's** & the **Annexe Schools** to daily open God's Word to the pupils & for the results which are evident both in current students & ex pupils. Pray that this will increase & be consolidated.
2. Give thanks for rain in the **Chaco** during the summer months & pray for a good harvest for the indigenous communities. Pray for **Esteban Galeano** & others who, with **Chris Hawksbee's** encouragement, endeavour to use their land wisely & productively for the good of the community.
3. Give thanks for the life & witness of **Simon Caballero**, a longstanding pastoral assistant in **Dos Palmas, El Estribo**, & pray for his family at this time of bereavement. For **Mario** his son, who is one of the pastors in the **El Estribo** community & a member of the Diocesan Executive. Praise God that **Beryl Baker** was able to attend & care for **Simon** until he died.
4. Tonight the bilingual **Alpha course** takes place in **San Andres** cathedral. Give thanks that this unites the 3 congregations in the centre of **Asuncion** & pray for the leaders & those who organize the catering. Give thanks for the encouragement of the Alpha course last year & pray for the witness of each one involved.
5. Pray for the nation of **Paraguay** in the run up to the **Presidential Elections** on **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. There are 4 candidates, including an ex-General who was recently released from imprisonment for orchestrating a coup a few years ago. There are many concerns as to whether there will be a fair democratic procedure.
6. Pray for the services in **Concepcion** today ( there is now a 5 hour time difference) & for **bishop Andres, pastor Guillermo** & the lay leaders. For the children's ministry in the morning & afternoon led by **Claire** & her team, and for the young people, led by **Javier & Mirian**, in the evening service.
7. Pray for the health of little **Romina**, who has undergone a further operation & for the many other children in **Concepcion** who have been left in the care of relatives by parents working abroad in Spain. Give thanks for the regular children's clubs in the church which provide stability & teach them spiritually.
8. Give thanks for the **St Andrew's School** camps & working trips to the **Chaco & Concepcion**. Pray that the impact of these visits will help students to truly understand the reality & poverty of other parts of their nation. Give thanks for a full complement of teaching staff this term & pray for God's overruling & provision of staff for the latter part of the year.
9. Pray for **pastor Tony & Chris Somervell** as they continue on sick leave in the **UK** & for **Alex, Patrick & Ceci** as they stay with friends & continue their studies in **Asuncion**. Pray for the congregation in **Villa Guarani** & for theological student **Donald**, together with **Coto Martinez** as they cover the services there. For growth & spiritual maturity amongst the church members.
10. Pray for a significant response by the **SAMS** "family" in the search for a successor to temporary **Director Bill Lattimer**. Pray for the person of God's choice to come forward & take on this exciting & challenging role in guiding & moving forward support for the church in **South America** at a time of considerable change. Pray also for good contacts & discernment between the directors of **SAMS International**.
11. Pray for the preparations for **Mission Paraguay** later in the year & for **David & Jean Orritt** as they lead briefings for the volunteers later this month. There are still a few places free for the team working amongst children in **Luque & San Lorenzo** on the outskirts of **Asuncion**, as from **July 9<sup>th</sup>**. Pray for the right people to accompany that ministry & for all fundraising efforts.
12. Give thanks for volunteers, like **Ruth Pitman** who have accompanied **Beryl Baker** in her medical ministry in the **Chaco** & pray that there will be a continued support during the year. Pray for strength, safety & a clear Christian witness for **Beryl** & the indigenous health auxiliaries in their arduous work in difficult conditions.
13. Pray for **Tim Curtis** as he prepares to return on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** to his ministry in the **Chaco**. Give thanks for wonderful support received from churches in the **UK** & pray for peace as he travels. For the Bible translators, **Martin, Asuncion & Juan** & their families as they eagerly await Tim's arrival.
14. Pray for the plans for the **EJE** weekend in **June** & for **Patrick & Rosie** as they support & encourage the coordinating team. Give thanks for the opportunity of a time of retreat for the team this month & pray for the deepening of their spiritual commitment. Give thanks & pray for the young people contacted through **EJE** who are now participating & leading in the **San Andres** evening congregation.
15. Pray for **pastor Luis** as he continues his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the Theological Faculty in Asuncion, alongside his ministry in **Zeballos Cue**. Pray for the lay leaders as they accompany him & for the growing maturity & unity amongst the congregation. For all the leaders of the **PEPE** Pre-school, the Comedor for children & the weekly home groups.

16. Pray for more **Sunday School teachers** in the **Chaco** congregations as several teachers are absent from the villages looking for work in nearby ranches. This is a constant problem for lay leaders when there are few sources of income in the communities. Pray for wisdom for **Ed & Mari Brice** as they consider how to reorganize the teaching programme for the children.
17. Pray also for more trained state **school teachers** for the higher levels in the new school in **San Carlos, El Estribo** & for sufficient teachers for the newly built school in **Palo Blanco, Sombrero Piri**. For the **pastors** in each of the indigenous communities, giving thanks for the way they have resisted the offers of jobs in secular work. Pray for each of their families.
18. Pray for **Sra. Estela** & the staff at **FEISA**, giving thanks for a good start to the academic year & remembering especially the students taking the new degree course. Pray also for the team who prepare the training programme for mothers in the **Chaco** community of **Yatnata** & for the women attending.
19. Pray for the **Nominating Committee** as they continue the process to elect a new **Diocesan bishop** in **Paraguay** & for strength & wisdom for auxiliary **bishop Andres** as he takes responsibility in the meantime. Remember **bishop John & Judie** as they adjust to life in the **UK**, giving thanks for the provision of a bungalow to rent in Whitchurch, Hampshire. For **John** as he is involved in meetings to do with both the wider **Anglican Communion** & with **SAMS**.
20. Pray especially today for the **Presidential Elections** in **Paraguay**. For a government to be formed which will courageously deal with the deep level of corruption in the nation & truly develop the resources of the country for the benefit of all the people.
21. Give thanks for the constant flow of people in **St. Andrew's** English speaking congregation. Pray for the leadership team, the Sunday services, children's ministry & Alpha course. For God's grace & wisdom for those who are living away from their home culture.
22. Pray for wisdom & perseverance for those studying in the **Paso a Paso** lay leaders' course on **Wednesday** evenings & for all home groups in the local churches. Pray for a growing awareness of the need to read & understand God's Word, & then to share it with others.
23. Pray for wisdom & discernment for the **bishops** of the Anglican **Southern Cone Province** of South America as they are approached by orthodox bishops in other parts of the **Anglican Communion** for oversight & support. Remember **Presiding bishop Greg Venables** in his heavy work load both in the **Argentine** diocese & in the **Province**.
24. Pray for **pastor Cefe, Ana** & the lay leaders in **Roque Alonso** & the annexe churches in **Remansito & Mirador**. For vision & unity as they evangelize the area around the churches & also reach out to **Limpio & Emboscada**. For **Adelio & Isabel** as they care for the retreat centre in formation in **Emboscada**. Pray that this may be steadily built up & become a place of unity for the Asuncion Christians, especially those who are rarely able to leave their own areas.
25. Give thanks that **Rut Cabrera** has continued her nursing training despite many difficulties & pray for her as she spends a few weeks working in the private Yalve Sanga Mennonite hospital in the **Chaco**. For God's guidance over her future work or studies. Continue to pray for a **state hospital** to be provided for the vast **Chaco** region
26. Give thanks for the wonderful work accomplished through the **Annexe School** in Asuncion. Pray for **Head Victor Santa Cruz** & his staff & for the pupils who come from the dangerous shanty town area. Give thanks for those who recently became Christians & are now attending the **San Andres** congregation. Pray for vision & strength for **pastor Agustin, Teresa** & the lay leaders & for **Sharon McCreerie** in her pastoral & evangelistic contacts with pupils & their families.
27. Pray for the leadership team in all the preparations for the **EMA** weekend next month, especially in the absence of pastor Tony & Chris. Pray too for God's protection & grace for all Christian couples in the local churches & their witness to other families.
28. Pray for those continuing their theological studies – **pastor Luis, Feliciano & Donald** in the Evangelical University & **pastor Patrick** doing further studies with the Open Theological College via the Internet. For perseverance & good concentration & a close daily walk with the Lord. For their families.
29. Pray for **pastor Jorge, Rebeca** & the lay leaders in **Luque & San Lorenzo** as they prepare for the arrival of the Mission Paraguay volunteers in **July**. For wisdom over the purchase of the site in **San Lorenzo** to be developed for the children's & young peoples' ministry. For **pastor Jorge's** contribution as the Anglican representative in the Association of Evangelical Churches in Paraguay.
30. Pray for the annexe congregations near to **Concepcion**. For the lay leaders & for **pastor Guillermo & bishop Andres** as they visit them. For **Claire Holmes** & her team in their wide ministry amongst children each week both in & around **Concepcion** & for **Saul & Norma** as they look after the indigenous hostel in the city. For outreach to young people through "El Puente" coffee bar ministry.