

## Paraguay Prayer Calendar February & March 2013

### **Week Fri 1 – Thurs 7 Feb – Thanks for blessings**

*Please help us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks for the blessings we receive in answer to all these prayers. 2 Corin 1:11*

Claire Holmes shares: In the two weeks leading up to Christmas the church presented Nativity Plays in the areas of Concepcion in which we work, and in a presentation of the Christmas story in the Chaco where the indigenous people live, about 700 people were there to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you for praying for the Asuncion Youth camp which was took place at the beginning of January under the leadership of Esteban and Yoryi and other youth leaders from various congregations. A good number of young people attended enjoying fellowship, challenges and good weather.

We give thanks for answers to prayer in Concepcion:

- for the youth meeting in Villa Alta which has about 15 young people coming each week. We hope that some of the young people themselves will be able to take responsibility within the group and use their gifts within it.
- For the adults Bible Study group in Villa Alta studying the book of John. It is really encouraging to see eight of the mums of the children and young people coming to this on a regular basis. Please pray that there will be a real hunger for God amongst them, and a desire to love, obey and serve Him, and also for Narcisa the church member who lives and serves in Villa Alta.

Chris Hawksbee encourages us to give thanks for last year's successful sesame harvest in the Chaco community of El Estribo, which was financed by a local Mennonite business man. They harvested 43 tons, £23,000 worth. They hope to plant a lot more this next season.

We give thanks for the summer break in Paraguay which meant time to rest for the church ministers and leaders and the staff of businesses and educational establishment. We pray that the start of the year's activities will be filled with vision, enthusiasm and creativity which will bring well being and hope to many people in Paraguay.

Beryl Baker: Praise for the very full church at Rio Verde and for Karina Zavala as she is in charge of the Sunday school. Please pray for her husband looking for employment which is very hard to obtain in the Rio Verde area.

### **Week Fri 8 – Thurs 14 Feb – Asking for God's forgiveness**

*LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave Nehemiah 1:5-7*

Please pray for rain which is desperately needed in the Chaco, and for protection as huge fires are swept along by high winds. Already the government are taking in water to most of the indigenous communities. The heat is extraordinary and as this is supposed to be the "wet" season the situation is very critical.

As Nehemiah confessed the sins of his fellow countrymen let us ask God to forgive injustice, greed and mismanagement of the world's resources which leads to extreme weather causing misery and destruction in the Chaco, may God in his mercy call his people to repent and change living patterns when they are not in agreement with his law of love and his commands.

Claire Holmes shares: 'One of the things which touched my heart was during a recent visit in the Chaco. A little boy won a chocolate bar as a prize for a game we were playing. He automatically broke it into four and shared it with his younger brothers and sisters. I asked myself if I would have done that so readily.' Please pray that a spirit of generosity would be poured out across Paraguay.

As Paraguay moves towards a general election let us ask God to forgive corruption and injustice. We pray that the next president be a person of the Lord's choosing. We pray for somebody wise, with good Christian values who will be strong enough to really effect positive changes and work to bring unity and prosperity for all sections of society.

Please pray for Claire Holmes as she leads Bible and Discipleship studies with 25 young people in Concepcion, that the seeds sown would give much fruit, and that the young people will keep to growing spiritually.

This week please pray for St Andrew's School for

- the children starting classes on the 14<sup>th</sup> February
- the beginning of year service giving thanks to God for the school's 50 years and this year of celebration
- parents' meetings
- 6<sup>th</sup> form leadership camp preparing school students to lead other camps for younger children
- election of the new head girl and head boy

### **Week Fri 15 – Thurs 21 Feb – Restoration**

*If you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name. Nehemiah 1:9*

Please pray for Francisca Sosa whose teenage son committed suicide just before Christmas and for Nelson and Carmen Franco whose 15 year old daughter also took her life at the beginning of January. May the Lord fill these families with peace and hope in spite of the tragic circumstances which they have gone through and may his restoring love and care give them the courage to go on.

Ask the Lord to guide you as you pray for those you know who are troubled in mind, heart, body or spirit that they will find healing, hope and restoration in God.

Teresa Maidana, Sally Bartlett, Ana Maria & Maria Liz Zubizarreta ask us to pray for the Esperanza foster home which is undergoing a restructuring. We give thanks for:

- all the children who have passed through the home during the last 7 years that they would continue to grow in grace, love and strength
- helper Dominga who is taking care of the home over the holidays, carrying out painting and repair jobs

We pray for Esperanza that:

- the Lord will send us the right person to take on the daily supervision of the home
- legal paper work to be completed

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern ask us to pray: We are very happy that Victor Santa Cruz will be joining St Andrews staff as overall head of the Spanish curriculum. Please pray for him as he settles in to his new role and that he will be able to establish good relationships with staff, pupils and parents. He has the advantage of having taught in the school over 20 years ago and of also knowing many of the staff. Pray too for the Annex School as he leaves there. Professor Catalino will be in charge there but Victor will still go along at the end of each afternoon.

Noemi Coleman asks us to pray for the intake of new students at FEISA: 'my desire is that we can ask the Lord to prepare and send the students of his choosing to FEISA. May their hearts be prepared and may we the staff train them in wisdom from above so that they know the love of our Father in every moment.'

### **Week Fri 22 – Thurs 28 Feb – Delight yourself in the Lord**

*They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Nehemiah 1:10,11*

Please pray for the clergy and leaders of the Anglican church in Paraguay that as this new year of activities is getting underway each one will delight in revering the name of the Lord and would be like Jesus who said '*My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*' (John 4:34). We remember: Peter & Sally; Andrés & Estela; Agustín & Teresa; Juan & Alicia; Lucio & Priscilla; Luis & Regina; Mario & Rosa; Robert & Cristina; Elvio & Lorenza; Cefe & Ana; Agripino & Nilda; Lucho & Estela; Ronald & Nicky; Mario & Agustina; Niño Pepe & Feliciano; Romualdo & Yrna; Donald & Caroline; and Claire, the pastoral workers and all church council members.

2<sup>nd</sup> week of Lent you might like to make time to

- think about your relationship with God
- be encouraged to take delight in His good plans for your life
- be thankful that he listens to your prayers and has redeemed you and chosen you to be his servant

**St Matthews, Rio Verde:** please pray the leadership team, especially praying for the following members of this church: Victor Gonzalez, Salomon, Zuni and Don Antonio, Tim & Beryl. Let us also pray for Karina and the Sunday school.

**Spring of Eternal Life Church:** we continue to pray for a spiritual breakthrough in a situation which has been characterised by hardness of heart and conflict. We remember in prayer those members of the community who have recently been bereaved and are struggling to come to terms with their loss.

**Rivers of Living Water:** please pray that the members and leaders of this community will count the cost of following Jesus and commit to living according to his paths and statutes.

**Rock of Peace:** please pray for Pastor Lucio and his wife Priscila and the church community that in this time of Lent that many members of the community would chose to draw close to Jesus Christ.

**Encounter with God:** please pray for Pastor Mario and his wife Rosa and the church for a fresh anointing of truth and power.

### **Week Fri 1 – Thurs 7 Mar - Time to worship Jesus**

*A dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:2,3*

During this third week in Lent let us join with Martha, Lazarus and Mary in offering hospitality to Jesus, let us open our hearts to receive him and worship him.

Praise the Lord for manifesting His presence to a new girl at the Puerta as she felt to confess her sin and ask for forgiveness and for His appearance to her during the night which absolutely changed her Heart and countenance. Wisdom and provision needed regarding staffing or closing for the Puerta.

Please pray for Chris Hawksbee who has been given 1000 copies of the “audible Bible in Guarani” by the SIM mission. This will complement and aid the Bible studies he have been doing with villages in the La Patria settlement, as they mainly speak Guarani. Having said that, other communities who are Enxet (Lengua) speaking are also showing interest. Chris plans to give them the “reading the Bible in a year programme”, so that they can read/listen to it all and not just their favourite passages. The materials for the Bible studies are also in Guarani, and the first book is on Acts.

In the pressures and challenges of school life we pray for all Christian teachers that they would find time to worship their Lord and grow in the faith. We pray for: Alison H, Sam W, Mindy, Jaqui & Deborah and St Andrews staff: Gwen Carlisle, Mags Southern, Victor Santa Cruz, Caroline B, Esteban R, Hannah T, Nicky I, Raquel G, Neill B, Noemi R, Rita C, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B, and chaplain Ronald I.

Please pray for Tim Curtis, Asuncion and Juan:

- that the translators would continue to grow in the Christian faith and character
- protection for the technical equipment in the extreme heat
- the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the team members
- planning for the printing of the Enxet OT in 2014, which is estimated to cost US\$20,000 giving thanks for Rev Chris Ruddle and his enthusiasm for fundraising for this project

Let's pray for Bishop Andres and Estela, Claire and the church leaders in Concepcion, in St Pauls Church and its missions, praying for the work in the church's mission projects that many would draw near to Jesus, worship Him and decide to follow Him.

### **Week Fri 8 – Thurs 14 Mar – Welcoming Jesus**

*“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt.” At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him. John 12:15,16*

We give thanks for the lives of many faithful disciples in Asuncion who have gone to be with the Lord especially remembering Doña Mili, and thank the Lord for the fruit of faithful following of Jesus. As the Diocese dedicates 2013 to discipleship let us pray that new models will be adopted whilst valuing the contribution of previous generations of believers.

Ronald Irene asks us to pray for: discernment and wisdom in this new phase of development that the Anglican Church in Paraguay is undergoing, especially in the challenges. May the Lord marvellously transform our lives for the glory of His name.

The Anglican church in Paraguay faces many financial challenges this year. We thank the Lord for increased giving in some of the congregations. Please pray for the local congregations as they seek to finance ministry in the churches.

This week we remember the many mission partners who have been part of the Anglican Church in Paraguay and pray that the seeds they sowed will bear fruit in the Lord's timing and perfect plans. We pray that those who over the years have moved onto different countries and cultures would continue to glorify Jesus.

Gwen and Mags share with us: St Andrews school's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday is March 18th so we will combine that with our Easter service on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The pupils will do various presentations and then in June we will have our big celebrations. We have invited the ex heads to join us as well as Mission agency representatives. We are planning a big meal for ex pupils and parents. It's been hard trying to find a place that could cater for over 1,000 people! Please pray for all the planning and preparations for these special events that they would bring glory to the name of the Lord and be a witness to His faithfulness and great works.

Please pray for Pastors Agustin, Donald, Lucho, Luis and Ronald as disciples of Jesus as they lead others into new levels of commitment as disciples. Please pray for the Asuncion urban church members that as they are challenged to be more faithful disciples of Jesus they will respond positively.

### **Week Fri 15 – Thurs 21 Mar – Sent out into the world**

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. John 17:15-19*

Let us pray for all those we know who are preparing to marry this year (especially remembering Charlie Mendez and Raquel Greco whose wedding is next week). May their love and commitment be always strong and firm and may the Lord from whom all families on earth take their name help them in all their preparations.

FEISA give thanks to the Lord for the generosity of donors who help sponsor scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Please pray that both those who give sacrificially and those who benefit from the scholarships will be blessed. Pabla Martinez, one of the second year scholarship students writes: *'Thank you very much for all your support which has enabled me to complete another year's studies in my chosen career. It's a privilege to study in FEISA as I'm developing not only in professional knowledge but also as a person, because Christian values are always instilled in us by our teachers. May God repay you three times over for all you are giving, so that students like myself can finish our studies!'*

FEISA gives thanks for:

- the Toy Library which last year was run by Maria Liz
- the generosity of St Peters Oundle in support of the Toy Library
- good visits to a charitable foundation 'Embrace' that works with street children
- visits to orphanages, children's' homes, State schools, Christian schools and churches

Please pray for this year's development of the Toy Library which will have a different focus by involving more of the students and thereby increasing their contact with some of the most needy children in Paraguay.

Please pray for newly started livestock project in the Chaco. It is funded by Fondo Indigena, from Bolivia. A previous project by the same fund was completed last year. These projects have been under the umbrella of Global Chaco (NGO), who Chris Hawksbee works closely with. A recent 3 day visit with 18 members to help motivate and strengthen the El Estribo villages in the Christian Faith was very positive on both sides. Please pray that the new project would bring well being and hope to Chaco communities.

Let us pray for Ronald & Nicky Irene, following on from the restructuring of EMA marriage encounter, as plans for the May Encounter are now under way, that many couples who as yet do not know the Lord will be drawn to Him.

Luque church, we pray:

- leaders Rev Donald Brooks and Teo Rivas
- Esteban & Iris Romero and the youth group as they reach out to other young people in the neighbourhood
- Pedro, Eugenia, Constanza, Teo & Lidia and the San Lorenzo mission to needy children and their families

## **Week Fri 22 – Thurs 28 Mar – Jesus prays for his disciples**

*“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”* John 17:25, 26

Please keep praying for the Asuncion pastors as they seek the Lord’s guidance and plans to implement discipleship training during 2013. Please pray for Bishop Peter and Sally as they return to Asuncion next week, that they would be refreshed and renewed and prepared for the next stage of their ministry in Paraguay.

The Redeemer Church give thanks for ministry which is strengthening the church, let us pray for:

- new Christians in the church to be well integrated
- a fruitful ministry in the local community
- older members of the church as the church continues to move forward and change

Please pray for the San Juan group of churches for:

- unity and humility amongst the church members and different groups
- good communication
- the music group
- the group meeting in Alberto’s home
- the ladies group in Mirador, experiencing renewal

St Andrews Chapel ask us to pray for spiritual fruit from the ongoing programme of studying an overview of the big story of the Bible. They give thanks for the fortnightly Bible study on Daniel which Hannah Taylor is leading. Hannah and her fiancé Sam also lead services.

St Paul’s: pray that there will be enough leaders for all the different ministries and that God will raise up new leaders.

Christ the Saviour, Villa Guarani, please pray for:

- Ronnie & Nicky to be given God’s vision
- leaders for the Sunday school
- Bible studies
- church wardens Pablo & Juan Carlos
- new attenders to quickly feel part of the church

## **Week Fri 29 – Sun 31 Mar – Jesus is alive and cares about our everyday lives**

*Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.* John 21:12-14

Take some time over the days leading up to Easter Sunday to give thanks to the Father for the gift of his Son who suffered and died and rose from the dead so that you could have eternal life, forgiveness and healing.

The Risen Lord meets with his disciples and provides for their needs before they even ask Him. Thinking back over the past months or years:

- How has Jesus met your needs in unexpected ways?
- Has he used other people to meet your needs?
- Has he used family, friends or even strangers to respond to your needs?
- How has he used you to meet the needs of others?

God cares deeply about the needs of the people and world that he created and He does not separate life into the secular and the non secular. Please pray for the young people of Paraguay growing up in world which struggles to value servant leadership. Many young Anglicans choose to become servant leaders so that Jesus is glorified in our society.

Thank you for praying for the Anglican Church in Paraguay  
+Peter & Sally Bartlett,  
on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

*Iglesia Anglicana Paraguaya, Casilla de Correos 1124, Asunción, Paraguay, South America*  
[peterparaguay@gmail.com](mailto:peterparaguay@gmail.com)    [saritabartlett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saritabartlett@hotmail.co.uk)    Skype: pjhbartlett