

Paraguay Prayer Calendar Jan & Feb 2012



Leaving breakfast for Babs Owen



St Andrews sewing group birthday tea for Ale from La Puerta

Week Sun 1 – Sat 7 Jan - Thankful hearts

And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful.
Colossians 3:14-16

Praise the Lord for sending **good rains** to the Chaco. The Community of Santa Fe has benefitted greatly. Their water reservoir is full and overflowing, they have now received their 22 cows and bull, completing their cattle project – Chris Hawksbee

Pastor Luis Echeverria thanks the Lord for the strength that God gave last year, and mentions that ‘what really impacted me recently was how the poorest members of the **Redeemer Church** bless my family each year with a Christmas basket, this is such a kind gesture which truly deserves our gratitude’.

Beryl Baker in the Paraguayan Chaco notes that Christmas Eve was cold and Christmas Day a real treat of coolness. The service at **St Matthews, Rio Verde** was really lovely and well attended. I was given a turkey, some cider and some other special Christmas food so was able to invite people for lunch.

Miriam Greco thanks God for the **Forgiveness** campaign across the whole of Paraguay, which is helping Paraguayans to look into things in their hearts which they need to forgive. The blessings of forgiveness are being experienced in many different ways. The prestigious Marketing Gold Award in 2011 was won by the eye catching **Forgiveness** publicity.

Ed and Mari Brice thank the Lord for our **indigenous brethren** who are studying the Bible and equipping themselves to minister to others in their communities.

Thank the Lord for the time of reflection **Healthy Church** in St Andrews am, which has helped the congregation to consider together their reality and to look to the future trusting in God.

Happy praise to our great redeemer God, for the **visible growth in freedom in love and wellbeing** of the 6 girls in La Puerta since their baptism. More praise for the sense of being cared for and belonging they experience at the Women’s Sewing Club at St Andrews – Sharon McCririe.

Karina: I am so grateful for **FEISA’s help**, their understanding and the patience they showed me. Now, after many struggles, I have been able to fulfill my dream of becoming the professional teacher I’ve always wanted to be.

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. William Arthur Ward

Week Sun 8 – Sat 14 Jan - God’s gift of rest

The LORD asked Moses, “How long will these people refuse to obey my commands and instructions? ²⁹ They must realize that the Sabbath is the LORD’s gift to you. Exodus 16:28, 29

Jesus, **Lord of the Sabbath** we pray for the church in Paraguay during this hot summer period that the rest you give will be appreciated and observed. We pray for those who name you as Lord that indeed you would be Lord of the Sabbath in their lives. We pray for all those in leadership who are tempted to cut corners when it comes to resting. Amen.

Please keep praying for **adequate rain** for the whole of Paraguay.

Please pray for the **Anglican churches in Asuncion** during the holiday period that the arrangements for Sunday services would go smoothly in the absence of the pastors and other church leaders.

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern of **St Andrews College** ask us to pray for:

- good rest and refreshment for all the St Andrews staff
- the workmen working throughout the holidays to paint school, for strength in the heat
- the building work at the Annex school to make a new computer room

We pray for the **leaders of the Anglican Church in Paraguay** that they will be obedient in their resting. We pray for Peter & Sally Bartlett & Andrés & Estela Rodríguez; Agustín & Teresa Maidana, Ed & Marie Brice, Juan & Alicia Sosa, Lucio & Priscilla Romero, Luis & Regina Echeverría, Mario & Rosa Caballero, Robert & Cristina Fernández, Elvio & Lorenza Cabañas, Cefe & Ana Romero, Agripino & Nilda Cerro, Ronald & Nicky Irene, Mario & Agustina Recalde, Niño Pepe & Feliciano Agüero & Romualdo & Yrma Rojas, Donald & Caroline Brooks and Lucho & Estela Robles. May they be refreshed, restored, rejuvenated and replenished in their ministries, so that your name will be honoured. Amen.

Take a few moments to **reflect** on your life and how it is lived. Do I need to take God's mandate on resting more seriously? Take time to listen to God's instructions and ask for wisdom as to how to please Him in this.

Rest is God's healthy starting point for us. Remember, we are human beings not human doings. God has established this order for us: rest then work. But we have it backward. Mike Breen, A Passionate Life.

Week Sun 15 – Sat 21 Jan - Blessing others

This is the blessing that Moses, the man of God, gave the Israelites... Indeed He loves the people. All Your holy ones are in Your hand, and they assemble at Your feet. Each receives Your words. Deut 33:1,3

Lord, we give thanks for all those who help with the sending out of the Paraguayan Prayer Calendar, remembering especially Colin & Heather Voutt. We also thank the Lord for each person who prays for the Anglican Church in Paraguay, and we pray that as they bless others through their praying that they too will be blessed. Amen.

We pray for **mission partners** in Paraguay Beryl Baker, Peter & Sally Bartlett, Ed & Mari Brice, Gwen Carlisle, Tim Curtis, Caroline Gilmour White, Chris & Alison Hawksbee, Matthew and Kim (with Sam & Ben) Hickmott, Ronald & Nicky Irene (with Natasha, Tamara, Daniel and Samuel), Sharon McCririe, Mags Southern, Hannah Taylor and Linn Tedman that they will be blessed during the holiday month and that each one would be refreshed and renewed in their mission, and that their lives will bless those they work alongside.

We pray for the **Esperanza Foster** home, giving thanks for the new house which is such a good provision and so adequate for the needs of the children, and thank the Lord for the generous donations of 2 new aircon units. May Juana and Juanita be given strength in the extreme heat and wisdom as they care for Sebastian, Johnny and Maria, and may they establish healthy boundaries for the children. We pray for Teresa and Ana Maria in their responsibilities in the home that they will be given wisdom. Lord may the children awaiting placement grow in confidence and lie down each night in peace. Thank you Lord for your love and care for each one.

We pray for Ana Maria, the **director of FEISA**, early years teacher training faculty as she takes up her new role that she will be given wisdom, grace, vision and creativity in her responsibilities. We also pray that the staff of FEISA will continue to serve the Lord with gladness in this important ministry to the education of Paraguay's youngest children and ask the Lord for supply all the institution's needs. Amen.

We pray for the **St Andrews College** admin staff who return to work next week that they would be blessed as they serve the Lord in all their work. We pray for harmonious relations between the staff and for good start to the new work year. Amen.

Luis and Regina Echeverria ask us to pray that they will rest and renew their strength during the holiday period, so that they can **serve the Lord** in the best possible manner this year.

And they will be called the Holy People, the LORD's Redeemed; and you will be called Cared For, A City Not Deserted. Isaiah 62:12

Week Sun 22 – Sat 28 Jan - Trusting in God not man

As the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea... *Moses told the people, 'Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the LORD rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.'* Exodus 14:13,14

This week we pray for the **bishops and pastors** of the Anglican church in Paraguay, Bishops Peter and Andres, Pastors and deacons Agripino, Agustín, Cefe, Donald, Ed, Elvio, Juan, Lucho, Lucio, Luis, Mario C, Mario R, Niño Pepe, Robert, Romualdo and Ronald. We pray that they will be able to understand the times in which we live and be able to lead with vision. We pray that they would continue to develop good communication skills and that they would be given wisdom and courage in their many tasks. Amen.

We give thanks to God for the **Church Mission Society** and their support of the work of the Anglican Church in Paraguay. We thank the Lord for the leadership that Tim Dakin has exercised over past years and pray for him as he takes up his new role as Bishop of Winchester.

Please pray that the right **students** will be enrolled for FEISA's courses, praying for wisdom for Noemi who assesses the financial situation of students who are applying for scholarships.

Please pray for David Greco and Guille Missena as they attend the **Provincial Youth Camp** that they would be inspired as they meet with young Anglicans from other parts of South America and that they would be equipped in leadership skills.

The **Redeemer Church** asks us to pray for the restart of the Pepe preschool group and the Saturday children's feeding programme. We pray for human and financial resources to be released in the community to enable the good functioning of both these church ministries.

Fermina from Maklawáya who we have been praying for died peacefully in St Joseph's Hospice, surrounded by love and care. We pray for her family who were not able to be with her at her death that they would be given peace and consolation. We thank the Lord for the work of the hospice and pray for an increase in such provision in Paraguay.

Week Sun 29 Nov – Sat 4 Feb - Sharing the load

The LORD answered Moses, "Bring Me 70 men from Israel known to you as elders and officers of the people. Take them to the tent of meeting and have them stand there with you. Then I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the Spirit who is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by yourself. Numbers 11:16,12

We give thanks for Denis Johnson thanking God for his years of service and for the growth of **SAMS Ireland** during that time. We thank Denis for all that he has done to further the work of the Anglican Church in Paraguay and pray for him in his recent retirement. We pray for this Friday Night Live taking place in Craigavon on Fri 3rd Feb, that this inspiring event will further God's purposes in South America.

This week in our prayers we remember several situations where leaders need help!

- Nurse **Beryl Baker** no longer has Brenda working for her as a helper – we pray that Beryl will be given wisdom in the responsibilities that she takes on and that the Lord would provide for her
- St Andrews College **teaching staff** return to school on Feb 3rd for a retreat and then staff training and preparation
- St Andrews College ask us to pray for **sufficient staff** to cover all needs
- Rocio M in her new role as head of **Primary English** and for new teachers Vicky G and Ali S praying that the challenges in the English department will be an opportunity for the Lord to bring the team closer together spiritually and for them to work well together to the glory of God
- School staff meeting with the **parents** of the infants and first grade classes
- **Victor Santa Cruz** in his leadership of the Annexe School, for a good start to the new school year
- **La Puerta needs** another well prepared Christian woman to work with the girls in the home to help Marcia who has day to day responsibility for the girls

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

Week Sun 5 – Sat 11 Feb - Praying for God's presence with his people

Then Moses replied, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place. But if you do go with us, everyone will know that you are pleased with your people and with me. That way, we will be different from the rest of the people on earth." So the LORD told him, "I will do what you have asked, because I am your friend and I am pleased with you." Exodus 33:12-14

This week **St Andrews Chapel** in English restarts its Sunday morning services. We continue to pray for Babs Owen who was the Chapel coordinator, as she settles back to life in the UK that the Lord will open doors for her. Please pray for Sally Bartlett as she organises the preaching and service leading rota.

Charlie Mendez is just starting his second year of theological studies in Chile. We thank God for all that Charlie learnt last year and ask the Lord to give him the ability to balance his studies with his responsibilities in pastoral work alongside Pastor Juan Esteban in Ñuñoa.

This week we thank the Lord for growth both in numbers and spiritually in **St Matthews**. Along with Ed and Mari Brice we thank Him for the joyful opportunities that they have to pray with many different people.

Please pray for:

- the planning of the Bible Encounters in Rio Verde and other communities so that more workers in the church can be reached
- Mari as she prepares local teams to do children's ministry in Pozo Azul and Makxawáya
- the Remansito team in their monthly ministry trips to St Matthews
- the St John's team who visit Rio Verde every couple of months
- new contacts in Rio Verde that they will respond to the Lord's call to be disciples

Please pray for David Orritt and this year's **Mission Paraguay** volunteers as they prepare for the summer trips to Paraguay to work in the cities and also in the Chaco. Lord Jesus, we pray that You will go before them in all of their preparations.

Lord Jesus, we pray for **teachers** and for St Andrews College director, **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy **Mags Southern**, Annexe School Head, **Victor Santa Cruz**, and consultant **Nelson Aguilera** as they lead. We pray for all Anglican Christian staff especially remembering: **Alison H, Sam, & Pat**, and St Andrews staff: **Caroline B, Linn T, Miriam G, Miguel G, Hannah T, Nicky I, Raquel G, Kim H, Matthew H, Regina E, Rita C, Ryan M, Neill B, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B**, and chaplain **Ronald Irene**. We pray that each one would aim for excellence in their work, be a person of prayer and peace and become a closer friend of God. Amen.

Please pray for **Bishop Andres & Estela** at St Paul' Concepcion for:

- Andres as he mentors younger leaders
- for safety as they travel visiting communities around Concepcion
- for planning for the future
- for their children and their families

*Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm. Garrett Horder 1884*

Week Sun 12 – Sat 18 Feb - Wisdom and discernment

Moses asked the LORD what should be done, and the LORD answered: Zelophehad's daughters are right. They should each be given part of the land their father would have received. Numbers 27:5 - 7

Let us pray for NGOs and the government in Paraguay as they deal with indigenous groups seeking to obtain **land rights** to enable them to live with greater dignity. Let us also pray for the ranch owners for a change of heart and compassion towards those who are dependent on them for work. The ranch owners control much land and are currently facing harsh consequences as a result of the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth.

On Valentine's Day we pray for all the EMA **Marriage Encounter** couples that they would grow in commitment to and love for each other. We pray for Ronald and Nicky Irene in their pastoral oversight of EMA that they would continually seek the Lord for wisdom and discernment in this responsibility. We pray for the EMA Bible studies that they would get off to a good start this year, and we thank the Lord for the couples which attend. Amen.

We pray for school chaplain Rev Ronald Irene leading the opening **school assembly** on 15th Feb for openness in the hearts of the students to the Gospel, for a spiritual response to the Word.

Please pray for the **urban church councils** of St Paul's, St John's, King of kings, Emanuel, Redeemer and St Andrews Cathedral and St Andrews Chapel for:

- growth in spirit and in truth
- the Lord to remove all that prevents the work of the Holy Spirit
- a spirit of wisdom and discernment to avoid false doctrines
- good working relations with the pastors
- energy and enthusiasm

Let us pray for the **Chaco church councils** for

- unity
- wisdom in dealing with visits from outside groups that are often unsettling
- a spirit of wisdom and discernment to avoid false doctrines
- increased reading and studying of the Scriptures
- spiritual and physical protection

Chris & Alison Hawksbee ask us to pray thanking the Lord for:

- sustaining Esteban Galeano in his leadership of OMI, for his transparency, honesty and encouraging of his co-workers (resulting in new projects being offered by other NGOs)
- the recuperation of the morninga trees with the recent rains and the sale of leaves
- another bee keeping project to benefit 6 communities

They ask us to pray for the work of NGOs in the Chaco:

- the general assembly of OMI to select members to preside over it. There has been a move by some unscrupulous leaders to install themselves. Pray for others of good reputation and character to continue this work
- the progress of El Estribo
- Chris as he coordinates with Global Chaco and others to benefit settlements where the Anglican Church works

Week Sun 19 – Sat 25 Feb Lent - Jesus goes to the cross to bring us peace

Paraguayans love harmony and peace, but dealing with conflict is not easy within Paraguayan cultural norms. *Peace - Shalom means wholeness, fullness, totality, completeness. In relationships, it doesn't mean the absence of war or discord, but the presence of goodwill and harmony.* How do these descriptions of 'shalom' compare with your own understanding of the word 'peace'? (USPG Lent resources).

Jesus went into the temple complex and drove out all those buying and selling in the temple. He overturned the money changers' tables and the chairs of those selling doves. And He said to them, "It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer. But you are making it a den of thieves!" The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple complex, and He healed them. Matthew 21:12-14

As we walk these weeks towards the cross in prayer with Jesus let us pray for the church in Paraguay for:

Tim Curtis and the translation team – Asuncion and Juan, thanking God for the Scriptures in Enxet that are bringing the Gospel of peace and healing to the Enxet people. We pray for good concentration and work patterns for the team, and spiritual protection.

Church leaders to granted the willingness to face conflict where it is necessary for the good of the body of Christ, and to be filled with grace and wisdom.

Lord of peace, we pray for all **young people** in our churches that they would be able to live peaceably with their families, friends and work & study companions. We pray for David Greco as he heads up EJE Youth Encounter ministry that he would be given wisdom and courage in his leadership. We also pray for all those who head up youth groups, remembering Carlos & Dina, Luis Cabañas, Esteban Romero and Donald Brooks. Situations where there have been **relationship problems** within the church that all involved will forgive and be compassionate and that Jesus will bring healing.

We pray for our churches that we would have **peaceable relations** with our neighbours and the other Christian groupings in our communities.

We remember in prayer those who are preparing to engage in **short term ministry** in the Diocese of Paraguay, remembering the Mission group from St Marks Haydock and the Drs Forde, we thank God for their willingness to partner with the church in Paraguay, praying that the Lord's peace would guide them in all their preparations.

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing: 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favour and give you his peace.' Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them.' Numbers 6:22 – 27 As you pray for yourself this week you might like to ask the Lord to grant you His peace and help you bless others with this peace.

Week Sun 26 – Wed 29 Feb - Encouraged in faith

When the disciples saw it, they were amazed and said, 'How did the fig tree wither so quickly?' Jesus answered them, 'I assure you: If you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you tell this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. And if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.' Matt 21:20 – 22

God is often at work, below the soil as it were, like a bulb about to break through. Make a list of 5 encouraging things that you have observed during the last month and give thanks to God for his work.

God uses mountains to refine our faith and often the mountains in the way seem very large! Jesus is not calling us to pronounce dramatic prayers but rather to be closer to him. The closer we draw the more effective our prayers will be. We need more than just knowledge about God, we are being called to place our trust in His goodness, power, foreknowledge, mercy, grace and His work on the cross. As we do so He will act according to His will. This week why not ask God to work in your heart and encourage you in your faith?

A preacher once pointed out that there are basically 2 types of people in churches: one sort seeks to find faults in others and the church, and the other type tries to build up their church and their fellow believers. Which description best fits your life and your dealings with others? Let us pray for ourselves and all Anglicans in Paraguay to grow in encouraging others:

- the desperate
- the discouraged
- other disciples

Ask God to show you someone who could do with a good dose of encouragement and ask Him to help you be an encourager in that person's life. Pray for that person and chose to speak to that person and act towards them in a way that encourages them. It is certain that as we change and become encouragers God will be glorified, others will grow and be built up and God will reward us when we arrive home in glory!

Thank you for praying for the Anglican Church in Paraguay

+Peter & Sally Bartlett,
on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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