

Paraguay Prayer Calendar July and August 2011



Bicentenary Celebration, King of kings, Remansito



Leadership training, Luis & Regina, Joan & Richard

Week Fri 1 – Thurs 7 July Give thanks to God and be happy!

Be happy that your names are written in heaven! Luke 10:20 CEV

- 5 new believers are attending Bible studies run by the San Andrés Cathedral congregation and there are 2 new believers in the Mirador Church
- joyful, creative and memorable events which marked Paraguay's bicentenary celebrations, leading to an upbeat atmosphere and greater valuing of Paraguayan culture
- Global Chaco has promised funding to the tune of US\$ 50,000 for the Santa Fe community in the Chaco, for their cattle project. This is going to be administered through the OMI organization of El Estribo. Please pray for that this is done in the correct manner to build up local administration capabilities.
- over 40 lay leaders and clergy from Anglican churches in the Asunción region attended a series of evening workshops as part of a 2 week leadership training course led by Dr Richard and Joan Forde
- there have been abundant crops of sweet potatoes and pumpkins in the gardens of many of the Chaco families in recent weeks
- FEISA teacher training college: We thank God that we are able to run Christian schools here, with complete freedom to teach God's Word. In fact, one of the officially stated aims of Paraguayan education is that 'each child should be helped to gain a healthy relationship with himself, with others, with his natural environment and with God.' We consider this is a privilege which few other nations enjoy in the world today.
- Mission Paraguay ask us to praise the Lord that through the generosity of individual supporters and churches funds have been donated to enable the planned programme of work to go ahead this year. Please pray that He will grant wisdom in decisions concerning the use of funds to bring the greatest benefit to His church and people.
- 45 – 70 young people are meeting together for social activities and Bible studies following on from the last Youth Encounter weekend. This ministry continues to impact the lives of many young people which are a testimony to God's working today
- we thank the Lord that cooler winter weather has meant that the dengue fever epidemic has subsided

Will you be a happy person to whom unhappy things inevitably happen from time to time? Or will the basic context of your life be unhappiness, in which joyful things periodically relieve the discontent? You can choose! (quote from 'Be happy! a 40 day journey to contentment' by Peter Graystone, Church Army)

Week Fri 8 – Thurs 14 July Seeking God’s Wisdom

And Daniel blessed the God of Heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him. Daniel 2:19-22

- Ronald & Nicky Irene ask us to pray for them to be given wisdom, discernment, and the ability to guide and lead Anglican Marriage Encounter. We give thanks for the couples who are attending the follow up meetings and for the small bible study group that Miriam and Miguel Greco are heading up.
- we pray for all who attended the recent leadership seminar that the teaching received would be practically worked out in the life, witness and service of the local churches
- pray for church councils as they continue the work of implementing strategies for healthy churches
- we pray for St Andrews 7pm as they seek to start new Bible studies
- please pray for Murray Metcalfe visiting Asunción, spending time with the Esperanza children’s foster home, that all involved will be given wisdom and understanding regarding the way forward
- please pray for Bishops Peter and Andrés for wisdom and discernment in difficult decisions which they are called to make, and that they would be encouraged as they see the changes that God effects
- we pray for Ronald, Donald, David, Guille, Clari, Yoryi, Yasmi, Sofi, Raquel, Ivo and Dani that they would be given wisdom and discernment as they seek to set up a diocesan youth office to further the expansion of the Kingdom of God amongst young people in Asunción

Week Fri 15 – Thurs 21 July Praying for peacemakers

Who is wise and understanding among you? He should show his works by good conduct with wisdom's gentleness. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favouritism and hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:13, 17,18

This week schools and educational establishments across Paraguay are enjoying the winter holidays. We pray for staff and children and young people for peace in their homes, rest and protection from seasonal illnesses (as Paraguayan winters can be cold and depressing). We thank the Lord for the contribution of Beth Bridgewater, Jo Miller and Zoe Eaves to the work and witness of St Andrews College and the Anglican Church in Asunción. We pray for Jo & Zoe as they adapt back to life in the UK and continue with their studies, and for Beth as she moves on to work with marginalised children whose families make a living from the rubbish dumps of Asuncion, asking that she would be given wisdom, strength, grace and peacemaking capacities in her responsibilities.

David Orritt asks us to pray:

- for the safe arrival of the Misión Paraguay group on 15th and 16th July
- give thanks for the hospitality of the church fellowship at St John’s where the group will be staying
- that the Lord will richly bless our visits to church communities in the Asunción and Concepción areas and that the development of friendships and sharing of gifts will draw us into a closer walk with Him and bring glory to His name

Caroline Gilmour White encourages us to give thanks and pray for the recent sewing workshop in Rio Verde:

- the five team members who launched a sewing workshop at Saint Matthews church, Rio Verde in June are praising God that it brought such joy to the 16 people who attended.
- there are now 7 women wanting to make shoulder bags
- please would you pray for the group, some with very challenging home situations, who could meet weekly to sew and chat in the church. They are Karina, Cipriana, Tomasa, Negrita, Jacinta, Debora and Rumilda and the co-ordinators are Marie and Zuni.

This week we pray for the team of 40 American eye specialists who are offering their services free in Filadelfia. Beryl Baker has a long list of patients needing eye treatment, pray that she will be given wisdom and help to coordinate transport.

Ed Brice asks us to pray for the programme of support visits to Rio Verde in July and August by members of Roque Alonso and Zeballos Cue Churches, that these times will bring blessing and encouragement.

The Enxet Bible translation team ask us to pray for them:

- for Tim, Asunción, Juan and Martín, especially for peace for Martín's family at this time of difficulty and instability following the death of the twins
- in spite of problems, good progress has been made on the checking. Martin's draft of Ecclesiastes was checked by the team at the beginning of June. They are currently checking Martin's draft of Leviticus and on Asuncion's draft of Deuteronomy, and this checking is going well, as they move swiftly through the narrative passages.
- please pray that the intensive and constant checking will not lead to spiritual dryness in the team
- pray for a good relationship between the team and local Enxet speaking churches, and local schools
- for Tim and other team members to find the time and space to prepare well for the occasional visits to Enxet speaking churches further afield such as the Makxawáya church, or those in El Estribo, as the team is usually quite tired at weekends!

Week Fri 22 –Thurs 28 July Education

My son, obey my words, and treasure my commands. Keep my commands and live; protect my teachings as you would the pupil of your eye. Tie them to your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Pro 7:1-3

Tim Curtis asks us to give thanks for

- the visit of pastor Mario Caballero and his group of musicians to the churches in La Herencia, including San Mateo, Rio Verde and for the encouragement they give to the community in Yatnata
- the opportunity of testing the Enxet reading skills of the musicians. Eight out of the eleven young men aged 17- 22 could read.

and to pray for:

- imaginative ways to involve young Enxet people in improving their reading skills (groups of Enxet young people turn up spontaneously at weekends in Rio Verde where Tim lives)
- the many Enxet people from Makxawaya, La Herencia/Sombrero Piri, La Patria, El Estribo now spend much of the year away from their communities working on ranches or in the Mennonite colonies. Sometimes this disrupts family life, especially if the father is away for long periods with older members of the family, leaving the mother and younger members behind in the community
- Pastor Elvio Cabañas as he begins to prepare materials in the Énxet language for use in Énxet speaking schools in the Chaco, and for a continued spirit of cooperation between the team and Elvio.

FEISA: Thanks to your prayers and some generous gifts, we're delighted to have been able to finish the 3 new toilets next to our classrooms. Please pray for our 2nd Year students that they may be able to organise their time to study, as 15 out of the 18 have morning jobs. Pray too that their often very low salaries will be sufficient to enable them to keep up to date in paying their fees, as that is a requisite for sitting their exams. We give thanks for the generosity of donors towards the work of FEISA and pray that even in these difficult financial times that the Lord will raise up new regular donors to enable a more secure future.

St Andrews College ask us to pray for:

- the Ministry Of Education staff training day on July 25th that it will be useful and well attended
- friendship day at the end of July
- the need for new staff for the English department
- for the annexe school children and their families during the cold winter months for protection from serious illnesses

We pray for Matthew and Kim Hickmont and their two boys recently arrived in Asunción to work at St Andrews College that they would quickly settle in and adapt to a new environment and culture.

Lord Jesus, this week we pray for Charlie Méndez, studying in Chile at the Anglican Pastoral & Theological Training College. Grant him perseverance in his studies and help him in the pastoral work that he is involved in the Nuñoa mission. We also pray for his fiancée Raquel Greco that you would help her and strengthen her in all her responsibilities, at work, at home with her family and in her church. Amen.

Linn Tedman asks us to pray for good health at the moment as she will be taking on half of the 6th grade to prepare them for the KET English exam in December. Please pray for this group as that they will be responsive and for creativity and patience for Linn.

Week Thurs 29 July – Thurs August 4 Shining examples in the Chaco

Those who are wise will shine like the bright expanse (of the heaven), and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3

Beryl Baker notes that Pastor Elias Gomez and lay reader Reginaldo have followed their sister in Christ, Anita to be with Jesus. International man of faith, Rev David Wilkerson has also left us when his car collided head on with a lorry in Texas on 28th April. The impact of the witness of these believers lives on in their communities and the world. The true story of the 'Cross and the Switchblade' continues to make a dramatic impact now 50 years since the events in New York took place. Please pray for the many people at **Salazaar** and **El Tejano** who have woken up to the reality that Jesus is alive after watching the 'Jesus' film also 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and 'The Cross and the Switchblade'.

Chris & Alison Hawksbee have been on leave in the UK. Please pray for their family, Sam, Hannah and Ben, that they will be blessed by this time. May this time of rest have prepared them for their return to Paraguay. We thank God for this family and pray that each one will lead many to righteousness through their ministries and example of life.

St Matthews, Rio Verde: please pray for for Ed & Marie Brice and the church as they make preparations for the Brice's absence from September to December, that all involved will be given wisdom in the planning. We also pray Ed's work with the SEAN Bible Encounter Manual in Enxet helping the pastors, deacons and pastoral assistants in the Chaco churches.

Spring of Eternal Life Church: pray for the ongoing visits of Pastor Agustin Maidana to the in Yatnata and give thanks for the encouragement this has brought to the local congregation, and for the involvement of Nelson Franco and Asuncion Rojas in leading the worship, preaching, prayers, at this church at different times of the year.

Rivers of Living Water, we pray that the members and leaders of this community will follow Jesus and that his love will shine through their acts of kindness.

Rock of Peace: pray for pastor Lucio and his wife Priscila, that they may receive fresh vision and enabling. Thank the Lord for the recent successful evangelism which the community enjoyed.

Encounter with God, we pray for pastor Mario and his wife Rosa, for Mario's teaching ministry and for the training of new leaders.

St Peters, we pray for pastor Juan and his wife Alicia, deacon Romualdo and his wife Yrna, for their good example and wisdom in teaching families regarding their children and young people. We pray that they would be guided by our Loving Heavenly Father as they study and consider stewardship and generosity.

We pray for the churches of the **La Patria** region that they will be encouraged by visits from Bishop Andres and Pastor Agustín Maidana.

- **La Leona,** deacon Agripino and his wife Nilda
- **San Fernandez,** pastor Robert and his wife Cristina
- **La Paciencia,** deacon Niño Pepe and his wife Feliciana
- **Colonia 24,** deacon Mario and his wife Agustina

Lord Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness, we pray for your light to shine in the many small Chaco churches and community groups. We ask you to bring light and healing to those with troubled hearts and minds. We pray that your followers would shine as lights in their communities so that others seeing their kind acts would glorify your Father who is in Heaven. Amen.

Week Fri 5 – Thurs 11 August Living the Jesus Way

Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16

Heavenly Father we pray that the witness of **St Andrews College** will cause families and pupils to turn to the Lord. We ask you to bless those parents who attend the parenting session being run this week by Ronald & Nicky Irene and Peter & Sally Bartlett that they will be encouraged and given wisdom in their parenting.

Jesus, Light of the world, we ask you for the safe arrival of members 2nd **Mission Paraguay** group. We thank you for opportunities to work alongside and serve indigenous communities in the Chaco and pray that you will direct each participant in everything that they do. We ask for good health for the team and that this may be a time of deepening faith as they work together to for the extension of Your kingdom. Amen.

St Pauls, Concepción, we pray for Bishop Andres & Estela as they visit, train leaders and encourage believers in different parts of Concepción and the Chaco.

St Andrews Cathedral, Asunción, we pray for Agustín & Teresa, Ronnie & Nicky and the members of this church

- that their relationships with God and each other would develop in greater depth
- for the development of a young people's group
- for the musicians and singers
- for the Bible study groups
- for the follow up to the preaching on healthy church
- give thanks for Chela's healing and return to the church

St Andrews 7pm, Asunción, for wisdom for pastors Ronald and Donald, during this new stage in the life of this church and for good communication between the leaders and the young people.

St Andrews Chapel, Asunción, we pray for the witness of this English speaking church, the integration of new attenders and for the planning of next year's centenary celebrations.

Heavenly Father we pray for **teachers** and for St Andrews College director, **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy **Mags Southern**, Annexe School Head, **Victor Santa Cruz**, deputy **Mirta Moyano**, and consultant **Nelson Aguilera** as they We pray for all Anglican Christian staff especially remembering: **Alison H, Sam, & Pat**, and St Andrews staff: **Babs O, Carol M, Caroline B, Linn T, Miriam G, Miguel G, Nicky I, Raquel G, Matthew H, Regina E, Rita C, Ryan M, Neill B, Beth, Miriam G, Linn T, Regina E. Donald B** and chaplain **Ronald Irene**. We pray for these staff as they educate that they would shine as lights in their workplaces, be given favour with their students and the ability to instil joy in learning and deep love for the Scriptures.

*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
To these I commit my day. Max Lucado*

Week Fri 12 – Thurs 18 August Caring for the vulnerable

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. Matthew 10:16

We thank the Jesus for Children's Day and the opportunity to celebrate the gift of the lives of children and we pray for all the children's events which will take place in Paraguay during this week, asking for safety and good health for these young lives. We pray for Noemi Coleman and the FEISA Toy Library, in their desire to reach marginalised children, giving them love, affection and guiding them in their learning, in one of the best ways possible, giving them the opportunity to play.

Please pray for justice for Health Promoter Norma from Sombrero Piri who still hasn't received her salary from the Ministry of Health since January. She continues working faithfully.

We call upon the Lord for help and healing for Fermina Zavala from Makxawáya whose cancer is still active - more sessions of chemotherapy and perseverance with her colostomy are her ongoing problems plus living almost all the time in Asuncion away from her family and community.

Currently there appears to be a high level of epilepsy amongst the Enxet young people. Please pray for Juan Arce from Makxawáya, he has been diagnosed as having epilepsy by the neurologist in the Loma Plata hospital. He is receiving treatment in the form of tablets which he must take every day. He has arranged to see the neurologist again on September 1st. Others who have been recently diagnosed and who will need constant medication are Florencio, 9 month old Cintia Analía and 1 year old Bladimir.

We pray for Ramon, home after recent hospitalisation and also Roberto, a diabetic, who had half a leg amputated recently. We pray for physical and emotional healing.

Please pray for Sharon McCririe and the Puerta ministry to young women with addictions, for God's freedom.

We pray for Barbara, Victor, Jose Antonio & Sebastian in Esperanza awaiting long placements / adoption.

*With praises from children and from tiny infants, you have built a fortress.
It makes your enemies silent, and all who turn against you are left speechless. Psalm 8:2 CEV*

Week Fri 19 – Thurs 25 August Grant us understanding

'Don't be afraid, Daniel,' he said to me, 'for from the first day that you purposed to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your prayers were heard.' Daniel 10:12

Please pray for the leaders of the following Greater Asunción churches:

Emanuel Church, Luque, for the healthy church project that the church council and congregation would commit to this and so produce spiritual fruit.

San Lorenzo, that we will be given the understanding and energy to start new activities.

St John's, Roque Alonso, for the leaders of Remansito, San Juan and El Mirador

- for understanding in knowing how to welcome those who are wanting to join the church (and have left other congregations for healing of hurts)
- we want to be a church that evangelises
- Pastor Lucho & Estela Roble and their family

Redeemer Church, Zeballos Cue, for understanding in how to move forward in evangelism

- grateful for the provision of building materials and human resources and For the building work on the new youth room
- thankful for the Ladies meeting for faithfulness and perseverance of the sisters
- for unity for the leaders and the congregation

Teo Rivas asks us to pray for Teodosio Rivas the new **diocesan accountant Noemi Colman**.

We ask for hearts that are humble and willing to learn and understand for our church leaders and their wives, +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 Aguero & Romualdo & Yrna Rojas, Donald & Caroline Brooks and Lucho & Estela Robles.

*God be in my head and in my understanding; God be in my eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth and in my speaking; God be in my heart and in my thinking;
God be at my end and in my parting. (From the Sarum Primer, 1514)*

Week Fri 26 – Weds 31 August Asking for wisdom

In 1950, the psychoanalyst Erik H. Erikson, in a famous treatise on the phases of life development, identified wisdom as a likely, but not inevitable, byproduct of growing older. The Apostle James, the brother of Jesus, teaches Christians an important truth: *Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.* James 1:5, 6

We ask God to give wisdom and understanding to the leaders of Anglican Marriage Encounter as they prepare for next month's encounter weekend.

We ask God to give wisdom and understanding to the EJE Youth leaders in their preparations for the next EJE weekend and for their plans to start a Saturday night Youth Service.

Finally you might like to take time to pray that you will be given a wise heart that will ask in humility how to use your talents and gifts in a way that will bless others.

Heavenly Father, draw us close to you and fill our minds with your wisdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. AMEN.

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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