

Paraguay Prayer Calendar May & June 2010

Week Sat 1 – Fri 7 May Remembering the Lord's goodness



Listening to the Jesus story, FEISA Toy Library, Limpio, Asunción



Listening to Jesus stories, La Rosa Cue, Chaco

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5

We thank God for Jesus' teachings on growing into true spiritual maturity and that his favour is shown to his people as we live according to his values. **Pastor Luis Echeverria** asks us to pray for the Emmanuel church AGM trusting that God will place the correct people on the church council who are able to be part of God's plans for the church.

Agriculturist Chris Hawksbee asks us to pray for an interview with the President Lugo, where Chris hopes to present projects to use Moringa Olifeira (dried leaf powder) as a supplement in the government's school children's nutritional programme and for patients recovering from tuberculosis, and using the fruits from the Chaco forest for income generating activities in Indigenous communities.

We take time to remember the goodness of the Lord thanking Him for:

- some **rain** in the Chaco and asking for more rain to fall especially where so far none has fallen.
- the first **Anglican Asunción city united youth service** held in Emmanuel Church, for a good start to this initiative and also praying for the second united service to take place on Saturday 8th May in St Andrews Cathedral, asking for wisdom for Charlie, David and Raquel in the planning and Georges who will be leading the service.
- **new beginnings**, hearts singing a new song, especially giving thanks for the La Puerta intern's month long victory over drugs and the father from the Chacarita school who has been alcohol free after drinking carried him to death's door. We thank the Lord for his word for these two men.
- **FEISA**: 'Our third year students are successfully finishing their practices in the State schools. We also give thanks to God because the Evangelical University has started giving out the certificates to our students. Thank God for Ruth Maidana who has taken on the role of secretary last year. She has done such excellent work that it has speeded up the documentation on the academic side.' We also are so thankful for the supporters in UK and Ireland who continually uphold the ministry of FEISA through their prayers and generous giving.
- **Mission Paraguay 2010**: for the volunteers from Northern Ireland and England who have committed to spend 3 weeks in July and August to share in the Lord's work in Paraguay; and for the generous donations received to date to fund the programme of projects and events planned for Mission Paraguay 2010.
- the decoration and equipping of the **Diocesan Library & front offices**, thanking God for the provision of resources and creativity.
- the **Redeemer Church's** new group of people who are working on Saturdays in the lunch and Bible Club. This group of ladies have involved young women from the church (plus their younger brothers and sisters) in preparing the food and the whole team are very enthusiastic.
- **Rev Ronald & Nicky Irene** praise God for his constant faithfulness and provision.

Do I have any attitudes or aspirations that I need to let go of so that I can grow and mature as a follower of Christ?

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less.

That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. Matthew 5:5

Sat 8 –Fri 14 May Embracing Change - Hunger and Hurt

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

Those who have a true view of themselves become hungry for God to fill them. As God offers us glimpses of new ways of being, we become willing to embrace change. The truth is that change can hurt but it also leads to freedom.

- We pray for all the couples both attending the **Marriage Encounter** being held this weekend for marriages to be healed, changed and strengthened also praying for leaders Ronald & Nicky, Miriam & Miguel, Sylvia & Juan Carlos, Jorge & Rebeca, Carmen & Claudio and Juan Carlos & Marinela.
- We pray for the **Agustín & Teresa Maidana**, Ruth, Fernando, Laura & Sylvia this month that God will restore and renew their lives.
- We pray for **+Peter Bartlett & +Andres Rodríguez**; pastors **Agustin Maidana, Cefe Romero, Ed Brice, Elvio Cabañas, Juan Sosa, Lucio Romero, Luis Echeverría, Mario Caballero, Robert Fernández & Teodoro Campestequi**; deacons **Agripino Cerro, Ronald Irene, Mario Recalde, Niño Pepe Agüero & Romualdo Rojas**, pastoral worker **Donald Brooks**, lay leaders, church council members and all of God's people.
- We pray for all the young people who attended the recent **EJE Youth in the Spirit** weekend and also school pupils who attended camps that they will grow in their Christian life.
- We pray for **St Andrews School** pupils during this month of exams and for the preparations for Mothers' Day and the Family Day celebrations, and for the first Parenting School class to be given to parents by Nelson Aguilera, praying for hearts open to learn new parenting skills.
- We pray that God will continue strengthening the **San Andrews congregations** in this time of change and that we may all grow in intimacy with God, because the Gospel is the Word and Power of God. (Nicky Irene)
- We pray alongside **Sharon McCrie, Hector & Dilia** and **La Puerta** that God will bring 11 more young men that He has chosen to deliver and raise up as evangelists, musicians and healers to be sent out to the drug community.

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. Matthew 5:3

Unless you are prepared to give up something valuable you will never be able to truly change at all, because you'll be forever in the control of the things you can't give up. – Andy Law Creative Company

Week Sat 15 – Sun 21 May Concepción

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9

Saturday 15th is Mother's Day in Paraguay. Thank you loving Father God for families, today we ask you to bless mothers across the globe, praying that peacemaking will start in families and spread out to the wider society. Grant strength, wisdom and peacemaking skills to the women of the world. Amen.

David Orritt asks us to pray for preparations for **Mission Paraguay 2010**, especially for the induction event in Oxfordshire on 15th May and also in Northern Ireland.

On Sunday 16th we join with St John's church in honouring and remembering in our prayers **Ceferino & Ana Romero**, their family and their faithful ministry over 25 years as Cefe retires.

In April Paraguay's Senate endorsed a **30-day state of emergency** in the north to crack down on members of a militant group accused of attacking police stations, with the intention to facilitate the arrest of suspected militants from the Paraguayan People's Army. We pray for President Lugo, the government and security forces.

Bishop Andrés & Estela López in Concepcion ask us to pray for:

- Concepción and the surrounding area during this time of emergency that security of citizens will be increased and that peace may be established in the region in the aftermath of recent deaths
- the current dengue fever outbreak (several members of the López family are recovering from dengue)
- God's wisdom and guidance for St Pauls church and the mission churches which is runs
- Resources to enable the church to grow
- Guillermo and Rosa, for restoration

And the Lord said to Moses, Say to Aaron and his sons, This is the way you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and watch, guard, and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon and enlighten you and be gracious(kind, merciful, and giving favour) to you; The Lord lift up His [approving] countenance upon you and give you peace (tranquillity of heart and life continually). Numbers 6:22 – 26 Amplified Bible

You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. Matthew 5:9

Week Sat 22 –Fri 28 May Pentecost

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10

Holy Spirit just as you rested on Jesus (Isaiah 11) may you bestow on us your gifts: the gift of understanding so that we may walk in your ways, your gift of wisdom so that we may follow you in righteous living, your gift of courage so that we may stand firm, your gift of knowledge so that we may distinguish good from evil, your gift of holiness so that we may love compassionate lives, your gift of godly fear so that we withdraw from all that is evil and embrace what is good, and your gift of peace so that we may more fully know your love. (From Celtic Daily Prayer, Alan Murray)

Let us remember in prayer this week:

- **The Annexe School**, head Victor Santa Cruz asks us to pray for the whole school working towards this term's motto: 'Obedience and Prosperity in the Lord' and also a school family with 3 children whose mother has tuberculous meningitis.
- **St Andrews School**, head Gwen Carlisle asks us to pray for the oldest students in this exam period, for the spiritual and training day retreat for staff, for the secondary school pupils' day retreat with Pastor Walter Altare from Argentina, for the Family Day activities and for parent teacher interviews.
- **FEISA**, for the work of Gloria and Ana as they lead FEISA during a time of change and financial uncertainty, that they will be granted the Holy Spirit's anointing as they head up the training of teachers for early years.
- **Donald Brooks, Feliciano Ortega, Luis Echeverria & Ronald Irene** for understanding in their studies.
- Government project workers who should be giving the **sewing clubs** a date for a sewing workshop. Everyone is waiting and the date keeps being postponed.
- **Caroline Gilmore White, Sonia & Marlene** working in the Diocesan Library.
- Christian teachers including, **Alison Hawksbee & Tally** (Asuncion Cristian Academy), **Victor Santa Cruz**, deputy **Mirta Moyano** and the staff of the Annex School, all St Andrews staff including head teacher **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy head **Mags Southern**, teachers **Babs Owen, Sue Nagaitis, Nicky Irene, Liz Aguilera, Caroline Brooks, Ryan Morgan, Karenina Caceres & Raquel Greco; Linn Tedman** (librarian), **Miriam Greco** (administrator), **Regina Echeverria** (in the school bookshop) and English Assistant **Lara Bordeaux**.
- **Bishop Peter & Sally Bartlett** helping leaders and potential leaders to mature in the faith.

*You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution.
The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. Matthew 5:10*

Week Sat 29 May – Fri 4 June Prayer for the Chaco

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8

Makxlwaya: we give thanks that the man who killed the young lad has confessed and has been taken into custody. The community leaders **Santiago & Elvira** and church leaders **Juan Sosa & Romualdo Rojas** have implemented a ban on the sale of alcohol and the community is settling down and looking towards the future, aware of the need to strengthen the spiritual base of the community. Let us pray for Juan, Romualdo, the pastoral helpers and church council members and Santiago and Elvira for hearts dedicated to serve God and their community.

El Estribo: let us pray for clergy **Lucio Romero & Mario Caballero** in their responsibilities, for good community relations and for an increased prayer base in their churches.

Sombrero Piri: we thank God for increasing unity between different churches in this region and for good church attendance over Easter. We thank God for the work of pastors **Elvio Cabañas & Teodoro Campestequi**.

Please pray for:

- Elvio as he juggles work with the Ministry of Education and pastoral responsibilities
- Teodoro as he has opportunities to help Mario (an Adventist) in the community of Jerusalem
- the godly women of these communities will keep on being encouraged to teach the Word to their families
- protection of families especially adolescents in the absence of father figures (many men are away working on cattle ranches)

La Patria: we thank God for initiatives to ferment friendship and cohesion across the Chaco communities through football tournaments. We pray for protection for clergy **Robert, Niño Pepe, Agripino & Mario** and their families.

Nurse Beryl Baker working in health care in the Chaco, would like us to pray for health promoters and for nurse Ruth Cabrera in charge of all the in-patients at the Indigenous and Mennonite hospitals. She wants to come to work with Beryl, this would require the overcoming of great financial challenges to put this in place.

Ed Brice: we thank God for Ed and Marie's ministry in St Matthews Rio Verde. We pray the opportunities that Ed has to teach leaders and remember Juan and Romualdo as they complete their studies of the SEAN Matthew book 1. Elvio and Teodoro are finding it hard to complete the pre class preparation. We pray for Ed for wisdom and understanding as he prepares for the next pastors and leaders' Bible Week in the Chaco that the Lord would be transforming leaders.

Tim Curtis and the Enxet Translation team: we thank God that His Word and Spirit transform lives and we remember in prayer Tim, Juan, Asunción & Martín asking God to help them as they check 1 Kings, Psalms 132 to 150 and Esther. We ask for protection for the electronic equipment. We pray for Tim as he offers pastoral support in many difficult situations in the Chaco and we ask God to protect Tim and the translators and their families.

Chris Hawksbee: we give thanks that the projects Chris is helping with are progressing well, the beekeeping in 3 communities is doing well and fencing is about to start for two cattle projects. Please pray for plans for projects to commercialise Moringa Olifeira (dried leaf powder). We pray for Chris in his work for safety in travelling and for Alison and her ministry in the Asunción Christian Academy.

*You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right.
Then you can see God in the outside world. Matthew 5:8*

Week Sat 5 – Fri 11 June Prayer for the Church – from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians – from Ephesians 6 (The Message)

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and his angels. Ephesians 6: 10 – 12

Lord, we pray for Christians in Paraguay that we would better understand the nature of the spiritual battle that we each fight. You Lord are strong, help us to be strong. Teach us to use the spiritual resources that you have given us so that we will win the battle that the enemy wages against us. Amen

Be prepared. You are up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. Ephesians 6: 13 – 17a

God, make us teachable Christians in Paraguay. Please fill your church with teachable Christians. Teach us how to apply truth, peace, faith and salvation in every situation. Thank you for your help. Amen.

But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the one whom Israel praises. Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted you, and you saved them. They called to you and escaped from danger; they trusted you and were not disappointed. Psalm 22: 3 – 5

Holy God, we thank you for example of those who went before us in the faith. Today humbly I praise you because like them when I face trials and tests I call to you and you hear my cry, and I am not disappointed. With heartfelt praise I ask you to be enthroned in my life as the Holy One. Come Holy One and take your rightful place. Amen.

*God's word is an **indispensable** weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. Ephesians 6: 17b – 18*

God, author of the Word, may the Anglican Church in Paraguay love your Word more deeply, study your Word more frequently and live your Word more fully. Pour out a new anointing of mutual and uplifting prayer for all believers here in St Helens. Anoint your Church with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Amen.

And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out. Eph 6:19-20

Jesus, our teacher, we pray for all who teach and preach your Word in Paraguay. May they themselves be teachable. May they be diligent in their personal study of your Word. May they be gracious in their teaching, may they be humble in their walk with you, and may they be faithful to your Word. Amen.

Tychicus, my good friend here, will tell you what I'm doing and how things are with me. He is certainly a dependable servant of the Master! I've sent him not only to tell you about us but to cheer you on in your faith. Eph 6: 21 – 22

We pray for every believer in Paraguay that they will be servants of Christ on whom he can depend. Grant that serving you will become a more urgent priority in our lives. As you pray take this opportunity to pray for yourself and 5 other Christians who you know that they will be encouraged to become more Christ like. Amen.

Goodbye, friends. Love mixed with faith be yours from God the Father and from the Master, Jesus Christ. Pure grace and nothing but grace be with all who love our Master Jesus Christ. Ephesians 6: 23 – 24

We pray for the Anglican churches in Paraguay that increasingly, we would be communities set apart by our graciousness and loving attitudes towards others. May we become centres of worship where outsiders receive grace and acceptance. Amen.

Week Sat 12 – Fri 18 June Asunción churches

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4

St Andrews Cathedral & Chapel: We pray for the leadership groups of the three congregations on this site for wisdom, vision and maturity. The Chapel thank God for his faithfulness over the last year in the provision of leadership and for the young people who are attending. St Andrews 7pm ask for prayer for the youngsters that attend the Vive adolescents group. We pray for the faithful intercession group of St Andrews in the morning that God will guide their praying and we thank him for answered prayers. We thank you for new attenders at these three congregations and pray that all who enter will encounter hope in God and peace.

St John's, Roque Alonso: We pray for the church council and **Lucho Robles** working together as the church moves forwards and for the satellite congregations of **Mirador** and **King of Kings, Remansito**. We lift to God in our prayers **Luis Cabañas** and the leadership group of King of Kings asking God to grant wisdom in their planning and strength and protection in the activities and for all the new attenders and the group meeting by the river to study the Bible.

We thank God for the new church council of **Emanuel Church** (Cristina, Adriano, Sara, Lidia, Timo and pastoral worker **Donald Brooks**). We thank God for the newly formed ladies prayer group and prayer for perseverance and increased ability to listen to God.

The Redeemer Church, Pastor Luis & Regina Echeverria ask us to pray for:

- more people to be willing to teach the Bible
- the new church council
- older members of the church who struggle with ill health
- prayer for a spiritual reawakening and that the church's testimony will impact the local community
- fir the church prayer group as they pray for the other Anglican churches in Paraguay
- for Luis to find a good balance between study and pastoral work

*You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you.
Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. Matthew 5:4*

Week Sat 19 – Fri 25 Giving Mercy givers

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7

Jesus teaches us to love our neighbours as ourselves, but often caregivers focus only on loving others. We can fail to love and care for ourselves. As we pray for ourselves this week we can ask God to fill our hearts and minds with the Holy Spirit and to help us to make healthy choices such as getting enough sleep, diet and exercise.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are the backbone of the **prayer power of the church**. Thank you for those you have called to pray in a special way. Encourage and teach them in their praying to listen to your heartbeat. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are **mercy givers**, responding to the emotional and spiritual needs of others that they will grow in gentleness and kindness, wisdom and holiness, love and understanding. Keep them from allowing others to form dependant relationships with them, make them quick to forgive and grant them the ability to deal with conflict. Help them to hand their anxieties over to the Father. Amen

Lord Jesus, we pray for the **Esperanza foster home** in this time of financial challenge and changes in government thinking. Grant to Juana Villalba wisdom and strength in her care of the children, especially those with special needs. Help all who are involved in Esperanza to sense your leading for the future. We pray too for all couples looking towards adoption and for children needing to be placed with adoptive families. Amen.

Pastors are humans facing the same challenges that we all do and also some extra ones. Tiredness, temptation, difficulties in balancing their responsibilities are just some of their issues. Being prayed for and supported by those they lead is of great encouragement. Prayer for your pastor is important to the spiritual well being of the pastor, their family and your church. If you want to encourage your leaders let them know that you are praying for them.

Lord Jesus, we pray for **our pastors and their families**. Protect them, nourish them, lead them, help them to know you more closely, grant them wisdom as they seek to fulfil their responsibilities. We pray for their family members. Grant that our pastors' homes be filled with your presence, teachings, joy, love and laughter. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we pray for Ronald Irene in his role as **chaplain** in St Andrews School, for wisdom and discernment, good time management in his ministry. We pray that both students and parents would be encouraged in their Christian faith through the work of the chaplaincy. Amen.

You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. Matthew 5:7

Week Sat 26 – Thurs 30 June God's story

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Matthew 5:6

Sarah Brown Wessling, US Teacher of the Year 2010, told Barak Obama 'When I look in a classroom I see a story in every learner, unique and yearning to be read.' 29th April 2010. Each one of us is God's unique creation and the stories of our lives are part of a much bigger story, God's story.

This week is a good opportunity to reflect on how the Bible unfolds from Genesis through to Revelation, teaching us the story of a Loving Creator who would stop at nothing to restore an eternal relationship with an arrogant, fallen humanity. (The Bible's Big Story- Our Story, Crossways International www.crossways.org) Sins are forgiven, shame is removed, beauty is restored and meaning is reinstated. World-wide, Christians are rediscovering the effectiveness of sharing the Gospel by utilizing the same chronological Bible story telling presentation used by Jesus on the Emmaus road. In fact, no matter how primitive or sophisticated a society may be, the best way to communicate ideas is still through the avenue of storytelling.

Suggestions:

- reflect on the wonder of the Bible's message
- pray for all you know who teach God's stories
- aim to grow in understanding of the whole of the Bible's message from the betrayal in Genesis to the wedding in Revelation
- find a new way to engage with the Gospel message
- reflect on the stories Jesus teaches us and how they give us greater understanding of God's Kingdom

*You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God.
He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. Matthew 5:6*

Thank you for your prayers for the Anglican Church in Paraguay,

+Peter & Sally Bartlett,

on behalf of the Anglican Church of Paraguay

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