

Paraguay Prayer Calendar May & June 2012



Mission partners eating together & receiving input from the St Marks team



Learning about being disciples, some of the St Andrews mothers with the ladies from St Marks

Week Tues 8 – Mon 14th May Thanking God the Father with hearts filled with gladness

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.' Psalm 122:1

The **Luis Palau Festival** was a great success and attended by 30,000 people (mainly young people). The Saturday 28th April festival meeting started early in the evening and finished at 1 am as there was an enormous response to the Gospel message. Luis Palau was able to speak to the members of the Paraguayan Senate and the response was also very positive.

We give thanks to the Lord for the tremendous response of **practical help for the flood victims** in the Chaco. The worst affected of the Anglican communities are El Estribo and La Patria where the roads have been like rivers. Most houses are OK and the emergency services are well organised and helicopters have flown in food and medical help and brought out seriously ill people. It's mainly the impassable bridges and unusable roads that are causing hardship. Please pray for those who have lost homes on the banks of the River Pilcomayo.

FEISA Director Ana Maria asks us to thank the Lord for the opportunity to share God's word at the Easter Service: 'the Third Year students organized a **beautiful Holy Week service**, with songs, videos and a Power Point presentation, reminding us of the great love of our God. Pastor Donald gave a message in which he talked of the 10 Plagues of Egypt, challenging the students not to sleep another night with frogs in their lives!'

Ed and Mari Brice ask us to give thanks to the Lord for the **3 day Bible Encounter** on servant leadership in Makxawáya with people from the neighbouring communities, for the support of Bishop Andrés, and Pastors Agustín and Luis. Pray for the plans for another Encounter in Rio Verde in June.

We give thanks for the 19 couples who attended last weekend's **Anglican Marriage Encounter**. Juan Carlos & Marlene Ferreira were in charge of all the practical minute by minute arrangements for the weekend and give thanks for all the couples involved especially the 6 couples that helped in the running of the event. Pastor Ronny & Nicky, Miguel & Miriam Greco, Jorge & Rebeca think that it was maybe the best ever EMA yet!

Caroline GW gives thanks for **new ways of working together** across the church community on chapel centenary projects. Young and old, English and Paraguayan, all are keen to contribute.

Miriam Greco reminds us to thank the Lord for the recent visit from the St Marks Haydock team, teaching and leading on **being and making disciples**: 'they (Amanda, Joe, Mark, Richard, Sandie and Sue) have blessed our lives'.

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern ask us to give thanks for the following **successful operations**:

- little Pablito (whose older siblings are in St Andrews) has fully recovered from brain surgery in the States and his parents want to thank everyone who prayed for him because they were so aware of God's hand on them while they were away
- Mati who had open heart surgery is now home though it will still be a long process for her to recover
- Linn Tedman is improving rapidly from her gallbladder operation

Pastor Ronald Irene asks us to give thanks to the Lord for a **great openness to God's Word** on the part of parents in St Andrews School, and asks us to pray that this will continue.

Week Tues 15- Mon 21 May - Praying for Revival

It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' Luke 24:47

As Paraguay celebrates Independence Day and Mother's Day on the 15th we pray for all mothers that they might come to know the love of God and spiritual freedom. We pray especially for Miriam Greco, Sally Bartlett and the St Andrews Mums' group (Claudia, Risa, Carolina, Patricia, Leticia, Violeta, Karen, Stefi and Rosa) as they meet on Thursdays afternoons and Teresa Maidana as she meets on Tuesday mornings to pray and study with Ana Maria & Maria Liz. We pray for these mothers that they will grow as disciples and testify to others and that their groups would continue to teach, challenge and equip.

Rodney 'Gypsy' Smith (31 March 1860- 4 August 1947) crossed the Atlantic over 40 times to preach the gospel to millions of people on both sides. His passion was almost unparalleled, and there was great fruit in what he did. What was his secret? Private prayer. A delegation once came to him to enquire how they might experience personal and mass revival as he had. They wanted to be used the way Gypsy was. Without hesitating, he said: 'Go home. Lock yourself in your room. Kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk draw a circle round yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle.' Simon Guillebaud

This week as we approach Pentecost let us take the time to pray for revival, starting with yourself, you might like to find a quiet space where you can make a circle to sit down or kneel and visit this space each day to pray that God would start a revival with you.

Please pray for the many small group situations in Paraguay where two or three or more people are getting together to pray for Paraguay and the church and its mission in Paraguay that this movement would multiply.

Please pray for our church leaders in Paraguay especially: 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; Lucho & Estela Robles; Ronald & Nicky Irene; Mario & Agustina Recalde; Niño Pepe & Feliciano Agüero; Romualdo & Yrna Rojas Donald & Caroline Brooks and all church council members, that they would seek the Lord's face and his revival each day.

*We're looking to Your promise of old that if we pray and humble ourselves
You will come and heal our land, You will come, You will come.* Matt Redman

Week Tues 22 - Mon 28 May - Pentecost

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." Luke 24:49

Please pray for all Anglican congregations in Paraguay this Sunday for an **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** in diverse ways enabling and empowering the church for mission.

Please pray for all those who are in a **time of waiting**, maybe for God's guidance, for an answer to a specific prayer, for a difficult situation to resolve or for God to minister his healing love and comfort.

Please pray for the **confirmation class** group at St Andrews Chapel, using Youth Alpha material, for Angela, Gonzalo, Jennifer, Sally, Sara, Ryan, Taylor and Coto that the message about Christ completely fill their lives, and that wisdom would be given to teach and instruct each other (Col 3:16). We pray for each one who will be confirmed that the Lord will protect and keep them as they prepare to take this step of commitment.

Please pray for all the couples who are taking part in the **EMA growth meetings** that the testimonies shared will open hearts to receive Jesus, encourage the weary and give new hope.

Chris & Alison Hawksbee ask us to pray for the Chaco communities affected by flooding that life would quickly return to normal, that families would be able to return to their homes, and that there wouldn't be too much damage. We pray for God's timing in the building of **new homes in the Chaco**. Also we pray for the older St Andrews pupils whose trips to work in the Chaco had to be suspended because of the flooding. We pray that they will be able to take part in the Habitat for Humanity project to help with the building of homes.

Ronald and Nicky Irene ask us to pray for the growing desire to see the **Christ the Saviour church** in Villa Guaraní reopen. Ronald meets with Bible study groups on Tuesday (parents from St Andrews) and Thursday (EMA couples) evenings and Miguel and Miriam Greco meet with a group on Monday (EMA couples). Please pray that the Lord would guide and empower the leaders and members of these groups who have an attachment to Villa Guaraní and a desire to study the Word.

Please pray for **La Puerta Ministry** for the Director, Sharon McCrie, Marcia and the girls that the Lord would give wisdom in leadership and ministering to the girls as they seek to rebuild their lives as daughters of our Heavenly King. We continue to pray for Fernando who recently took the initiative to attend church that as he meets with fellow Christians he would choose to be a disciple of Christ.

We pray for the children in the **Esperanza Foster**, Sebastian, Jonatán, Iver and Aylen, each one of them awaiting decisions about their future. We pray that they would know love, peace and security in this time of waiting. We also pray for Teresa Maidana and Juana in their responsibilities, and for helpers Liliana and Cris.

Week Tues 29 – Mon 4 June – Moving into God's place

Jesus said to them, "You don't need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls. But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world." Acts :7,8

Being in the place that God chooses for us is crucial to our wellbeing and to the Lord's mission. During the coming months the Lord is moving several people into new places and situations and we pray for these servants of the Lord that he will give them strength and wisdom in all their decisions. We pray for the following people and any others that we know who are in a time of transition:

- Beryl Baker asks us to pray: I have a flight to the U.K. booked for the 11th June so I will be home for my brother's 82nd birthday. I've been praying about this for ages and last Friday managed to get an incredibly cheap flight. My brother doesn't know I'm coming as I want it to be a surprise.
- Linn Tedman is returning to the UK and asks us to pray: I would appreciate prayer as I start to get things ready to send back to UK and as I prepare for my departure in July. It is not easy to part with things, but I know I have to be ruthless, chuck out and look to the future with confidence that the Lord has gone ahead of me.
- Claire Holmes: I have got my flight booked for 18th July so I will arrive in Paraguay on 19th July. I have put my house up for rent so hopefully I will hear something about that soon. I also handed my notice in at work last week so will work up to about 5th July and then get packed up for going out there.
- Matthew, Kim, Sam and Ben Hickmott are travelling back to Ireland in July. We thank the Lord for all that they are contributing to the life of the Anglican church in Asuncion and their work in St Andrews College. We pray that the Lord will be with them in all that they do in June.
- Claire, from St Andrews Chapel who recently returned to England due to health issues. We pray that she would be protected by the Lord and grow in her relationship with him and that she would experience the Lord's provision for her future

David Orrit has recently met with the Northern Ireland **volunteers going to the Chaco** in July to work with Chris Hawksbee. He asks to pray for the Lord's guidance and gives thanks that God has called people with the necessary building skills and asks for his blessing upon their preparations during the forthcoming weeks.

Please give thanks for the recent very positive meeting of **Mission Paraguay volunteers** from England. Ask for God's blessing upon the work currently being undertaken in both the UK and Paraguay in preparation for their visit in July to Asunción and Concepción and give him praise for the many people and churches whose generosity to Mission Paraguay enable this work to progress.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and walk along beside the carriage.' Phil ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' The man replied, 'How can I, unless someone instructs me? And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. Acts 8:29 -31

Week Tues 5 – Mon 11 June –Being a disciple and making disciples

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

We thank the Lord for the positive effect of the team from St Marks Haydock on the Cathedral site churches and St John’s church and thank him for the opportunity to work in **partnership across the globe**.

We pray for Bishop Andrés and Estela as they disciple **new leaders in Concepción**. We pray that they will be given wisdom, strength and discernment.

Please pray for **Charlie Mendez** studying theology in Santiago and his fiancée Raquel as they prepare for their marriage next year. We pray that they will grow as disciples of Christ both in knowledge and maturity in Him.

We pray for all couples who are engaged in **marriage preparation** and especially for the opportunities for sharing the Gospel with couples who chose to get married in St Andrews Cathedral.

Pastor Luis Echeverria asks us to pray for the **Garay family**, especially Yessica.

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, thanking God for their lives, and praying that each one would grow in their identity in God the Father and develop as disciple and discipler. We pray that one would have opportunities to be accountable and transparent.

Let us pray according to the **response of the pastors** in Asuncion to the recent training on discipleship that the churches in Paraguay will:

- become outward looking and move out from the 4 walls of the church buildings and respond to the needs of those outside the church
- adapt to the needs of those who as yet do not have a church to belong to and meet people with a message that is expressed in ways that those outside can understand without diluting the Gospel
- develop a vision, both locally and at a Diocesan level for the future and transmit a contagious faith
- form more cell groups to disciple and multiply the kingdom, in a disciplined and well organised way
- become more united, loving and honour the ministry given to them

Week Tues 12 – Mon 18 June – The Spirit is given freely

When the last days come, I will give my Spirit to everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. In those days I will give my Spirit to my servants, both men and women, and they will prophesy. Acts 2:17

We pray for the pastors and deacons in the Chaco churches for the opportunities that they have to share God’s Word, and we remember in prayer their families and ask for God’s protection and favour

- Makxawáya: **Juan & Romualdo**
- El Estribo: **Lucio & Mario**
- Sombrero Piri: **Elvio Cabañas**
- La Patria: **Robert, Niño Pepe, Agripino & Mario**

We thank the Lord for the evangelisation with puppets in 4 Chaco communities in Holy Week. We remember in prayer Raquel and Elsa working with the **children of St Matthews** and pray that the Lord will give them perseverance, confidence and vision and that they will be His instruments. Ed Brice asks us also to pray for those who visit **St Matthews Rio Verde** from Asuncion, for the coordination of these visits and long term commitment.

This week we pray for many situations where the Holy Spirit is working to bring the Lord’s salvation to those who will call out to Jesus and for his powerful work in our cities and communities.

FEISA ask us to pray for:

- students who are preparing their thesis
- Ministry approval for the planned Early Years Specialization Course
- Liz now responsible for the Toy Library visits
- More needy children to be reached through the Toy Library, bringing them joy through learning to play
- Noemi in her role as Teaching Practice coordinator

Holy Spirit, 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** and heads of departments as they lead. We pray especially 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, Carol M, Ryan M, Neill B, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B**, and chaplain **Ronald Irene**. We also pray for all the schools' academic, admin and maintenance staff that the Holy Spirit would continue to move in power to bring many into the Kingdom. We also pray for all staff for energy and strength as the semester draws to a close. Amen.

Beryl Baker praises the Lord for **many answered prayers** concerning the horse racing track that has been made near a church property. No race has been able to take place as the course is too short and hopefully the whole venture will never materialise thus preventing many accidents, fights, deaths and cruelty to the horses, too. Praise the Lord that after years of prayer and the work of vets and animal welfare organisations all horse drawn vehicles are not allowed on the Asuncion roads anymore and the City council is helping the people who were using the horses to obtain motorbike drawn carts.

*We're looking to the promise You made, that if we turn and look to Your face
You will come and heal our land, You will come, You will come to us* Matt Redman

Week Tues 19 - 25 June - Being the Lord's communities

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. Acts 2:42

Luis Echeverria asks us to pray for the church in **Zeballos Cue**:

- the youth group
- the training of the music group
- those who are newly following the Lord that they will remain in the Lord's paths
- for the Pepe School in this new time of working
- those who are ill

Lucho Robles asks us to pray for the churches in **Roque, Remansito & Mirador**:

- the confirmation service on 24th June in St Johns
- the newly formed cell group
- give thanks for the construction in Remansito
- all the leaders who are committed to serving the Lord
- growth and wisdom in starting more small groups

We thank the Lord for his faithfulness to the **Cathedral congregations** and pray for them in their desire for greater unity and growth. We pray for Pastors Agustín, Ronald / Donald that they would be given wisdom in their leadership and discernment and for the church council working with leaders from 7pm for growth in fellowship and greater love to develop. We thank the Lord for all the small groups that are taking place and for the Sunday school, especially the large adolescents class that these opportunities to meet around the Bible will help to bring new life to many.

St Andrews Chapel thanks the Lord for increasing attendance, and participation in lay leadership. Please pray for this mainly transient community that the Lord will continue to bring along those looking for a place to worship in English and willingness to use God given gifts to benefit this church which has been a place of healing for many years.

We pray for Tim Curtis, Asunción and Juan as they persevere with the **Enxet translation work**, working on 2 Chronicles that Jesus would be the centre of their work and fellowship and that they would be kept safe.

Please pray for the church in **Luque**, for Donald Brooks, Teo Rivas, Esteban Romero, for the young people who are joining the youth group, from church families and from the area around the church, that there would be great fruit. Thank you Lord for the seeds that are being sown and that you are the Lord of the harvest. We also pray for the Saturday group in San Lorenzo, thanking the Lord for the building work and for the regular contact with so many families in the area, that this in God's time would bear much fruit for the Kingdom.

Lord Jesus we pray for the **urban churches** that as leaders, members and attenders receive the Holy Spirit in greater measure they will become communities that shine more brightly in dark places.

Let us pray for the **homes of our church attenders & leaders** that they would be places where hospitality is freely given and received.

As the sparrow finds herself a home and the swallow her nest, where she lays her young, so my resting-place is by your altars, LORD OF HOSTS, my king and my God. Psalm 84:4

Week Tues 26 – Sat 30 June – Seeing the Lord

I had a vision of the LORD. He was on his throne high above, and his robe filled the temple...angels shouted, "Holy, holy, holy, LORD All-Powerful! The earth is filled with your glory." As they shouted, the doorposts of the temple shook, and the temple was filled with smoke. Then I cried out, "I'm doomed! Everything I say is sinful, and so are the words of everyone around me. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD All-Powerful." Isaiah 6:1-4

Max Lucado reminds us: "What you and I might rate as an absolute disaster, God may rate as a pimple-level problem that will pass. He views your life the way you view a movie after you've read the book. When something bad happens, you feel the air sucked out of the theatre. Everyone else gasps at the crisis on the screen. Not you. Why? You've read the book. You know how the good guy gets out of the tight spot. God views your life with the same confidence. He's not only read your story...he wrote it."

Dear praying friend(s) during these days please take time to look at the glory of the Lord. He has many ways of revealing his glory (these are just some):

- in creation and in the face of the child you see playing
- the glorious promises in His holy book
- when you see Jesus our Redeemer, Lord and King in his glory
- in the time spent in the chalk circle where you are praying
- your reflection on his loving kindnesses throughout the story of your life

As you see His glory, let your heart draw close to His heart and may the prayer below be yours:-

*Lord, send revival, start with me, for I am one of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the King
Your glory I have glimpsed, send revival, start with me Matt Redman*

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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