

## Paraguay Prayer Calendar May & June 2013

### Week Weds 1 – Tues 7 May – Choosing blessing

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. Psalm 33:12*

Miriam Greco asks us to thank God for the gift of his Son, who made one sacrifice to gain for us freedom and was raised from the dead to give us life in abundance.

We give thanks for peaceful general elections last month and ask you to pray for Horacio Cartes as he prepares to take up his role as president in August.

Claire Holmes asks us to give thanks for

- the young people who finished the Bible courses three of whom got baptised recently
- the recent rain as we pray for those in Concepcion who have lost their crops through drought and then floods, that now there would be beneficial rain

Esteban Romero says thank the Lord because the youth camp follow-up meeting in the cathedral was very well attended with young people from most of the churches able to take part. 'We had fun games, and excellent worship time and a challenge to be prepared as Christ's disciples to conquer Paraguay for Christ!'

Give thanks for Paraguayan families: for husbands, wives, children and grandchildren. Please pray that within the framework of the family and the church God will refine our characters.

Tim Curtis shares:

- Let us give thanks for Pastor Mario Caballero from Dos Palmas and his links with young musicians in the area. During Easter they were able to visit the new community of Primavera with Tim Curtis. A service of Holy Communion took place there on Good Friday and the musicians led the worship. They also visited La Rosakue. Various Psalms and Scripture readings were provided by the translation team for the congregation there and there was good feedback on the texts. Pray for Benancio Benitez and Carlos Velazquez who usually lead the services in Primavera and are kept supplied with biblical texts by the translation team for feedback.
- Please pray for Pastor Lucio Romero who has been away spending considerable time with his son Valeriano on a ranch after the death of Valeriano's wife a couple of months ago. Mario C and other leaders stood in for Lucio in Santa Fe and other communities in El Estribo during Easter.

### Week Weds 8 – Tues 14 May – Waiting

*The disciples all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Acts 1:14*

Esteban Romero asks us to thank the Lord for the youth who recently attended a large youth conference with leaders from other churches and received training, giving them more tools to work with other young people. Please pray for a new generation of young Anglicans who will impact those around them drawing others to Christ.

Please pray for the acute health situation in Paraguay with over ½ million people having visited health centre, doctors and hospitals asking for blood checks for dengue fever. There have been over 70,000 confirmed cases and an unusually high number of deaths. Octavia the treasurer at the Zeballos Cue church died very rapidly from dengue, we pray for her family and the church as they adjust to their loss. Please pray that cooler weather would come soon bringing a reduction in the number of dengue mosquitoes.

#### Prayer focus for the week: Bishop Andres and Estela

We thank Jesus for their witness to the Risen Lord who gives to those who turn to him and receive him, forgiveness, healing and changed lives. Pray for the times they spend waiting in prayer with other members of St Pauls church. Please pray for them this year as they prepare for Bishop Andres' retirement next year. May the Lord bless them as a family and may the good plans He has for their future be brought into being through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sharon McCririe asks us to pray with her in this time of waiting in La Puerta. She is seeking the Lord's direction re future use of the Puerta building. We thank the Lord that the walls are now repaired and a new sewer system has been installed. The girls have been moved to the rehabilitation centre in Caacupé, where the director is looking for people to train. Please pray for Marcia who fell and now has a problem with her tailbone. We praise the Lord for his hand of mercy and love upon the 11 girls in Caacupé.

Teresa Maidana, Sally Bartlett, Ana Maria & Maria Liz thank you for praying for the Esperanza foster home which is now starting a new phase. We give thanks for:

- all the children who have passed through the home during the last 7 years that they would continue to grow in grace, love and strength
- the paperwork enabling Esperanza to be a charity
- house Aunty Inocencia and helper Marina as they take up their new roles, thankful for all the good things that have happened as they have waited for the arrival of the first children as the home reopens
- for all who have generously given time, money and resources over the last 7 years that the Lord may recompense them

Please pray for Esperanza for:

- baby V and her young mother as they move into the next phase of their lives
- the new children who are arriving that the home would be a place of refuge, security and stability enabling them to grow and develop healthy lives as they await their future placements
- wisdom in using the resources available

You may be waiting for something important in your life or a situation for which you are praying. Be encouraged to remain faithful in praying knowing that our Heavenly Father maps out the seasons of our lives for our eternal good.

### **Week Weds 15 – 21 Tues May – Pentecost**

*Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles — all who have been called by the Lord our God." Acts 2:38,39*

Father God, we thank you for the example of the Peter and his boldness in preaching the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that you will raise up a new generation of leaders in Concepcion who will carry on the heritage of those who have gone before them, working boldly with children, young people and the country areas.

#### Prayer focus for the week: Victor Gonzalez

Please pray this week for pastoral worker Victor and his wife Lina, giving thanks for their testimony and sacrifice for the Kingdom. We also give thanks for the generosity of St John's, Roque and Christ the Saviour, Villa Guarani as they faithfully support Victor financially enabling him to travel to the Chaco for 2 week periods. May the pastoral work that Victor engages in continue to bear much fruit for the Kingdom.

David Orritt asks us to pray for Mission Paraguay. We pray that this partnership between churches across the world carrying out projects in Asuncion, Concepcion and the Chaco in 2013 will bear fruit for the Kingdom.

We give thanks for:

- the very positive orientation meetings held in Northern Ireland, Lancashire and Cheshire
- the Lord calling people with a range of skills and for their enthusiasm and the planning that has already taken place
- the ready assistance and support given on an ongoing basis by SAMS UK and Ireland
- the generosity of His people in contributing funds to enable the projects planned for completion during 2013 to become a reality
- Virginia Morales calling to this mission, she is from Uruguay and is currently on placement with SAMS in Northern Ireland, she will assist with translation and organisation for the six weeks of our visits
- For Chris Hawksbee's ongoing skilful and enthusiastic organisation of the Mission Paraguay projects in the Chaco

Pastor Ronald Irene and his wife Nicky ask us to especially pray for them in these weeks as they prepare for the Anglican Marriage Encounter at the end of this month – 'we will be coordinating the weekend for the first time and are nervous about all that this involves'. We pray that they will be given wisdom in all the preparations and that many would be willing to help with practical matters. We pray that the Lord would season all the relationships of the leaders with love, grace and humour. We also pray for all the couples who will be attending that the Lord would prepare hearts to grow in love for Him and for their partners and families.

We pray for Mission Paraguay:

- all the volunteers as they prepare for the trip, for them to be strengthened physically and spiritually
- Virginia as her time in Northern Ireland draws to a close and as she prepares for her visit to Paraguay
- the Lord will protect Chris as he travels regularly between Asunción and the Chaco region
- the preparations currently underway in the Anglican Church to accommodate Mission Paraguay 2013 visitors

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

**Week Weds 22 – Tues 28 May – Believers form a community – devoted to the apostles' teaching**

*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 The primitive church was a new beginning and in the Anglican Church in Paraguay we can learn much from how the believers formed community.

We join with Miriam Greco giving thanks to the Lord for:

- St Andrews Cathedral and the good integration of the young people who have joined the congregation – these young people are a blessing to those of us who are older!
- Jorgi and Yasmi who have now been married for a year
- the miraculous recovery of Pastor Agustin who is now back visiting churches in the Chaco
- families who are returning to the Cathedral, especially praying for Mirta, Ester and their grandchildren, for Julian, Camilia and Delia
- Andres who is a young man who lives locally, and may the congregation be open and accepting of new people

Prayer focus for the week: Mario Recalde

Please pray during this week for Deacon Mario, remembering him and his family especially for his teenage daughter who has been under much pressure. She felt convinced that spiritual forces were attacking her and threatening to kill her. She has received prayer ministry in Asuncion for freedom from these attacks. Please continue to pray for her that she would grow in the Lord, be assured of His love and that she will be rooted Christ and grow in understanding of the Scriptures. Mario asks us to pray that the pastors and deacons and church workers in La Patria would be able to meet together more often for fellowship and support.

Please pray for the clergy and leaders of the Anglican church in Paraguay as they seek to form stronger / new communities of believers. May they be given vision, practical skills, open and generous hearts and be listeners, both to the Lord and to those they minister to. We remember: Peter & Sally; Andrés & Estela; Agustín & Teresa; Juan & Alicia; Lucio & Priscilla; Luis & Regina; Mario & Rosa; Robert & Cristina; Cefe & Ana; Agripino & Nilda; Lucho & Estela; Ronald & Nicky; Mario & Agustina; Niño Pepe & Feliciano; Romualdo & Yrna; Donald & Caroline; and Claire, the pastoral workers and all church council members.

Please pray for the pastors in Asuncion – Peter, Luis, Lucho, Agustin, Donald and Ronald, as they study the Scriptures together on Friday mornings and in their preparations for Pastor Mark Swiger's visit next month to carry on with discipleship training preparation.

We give thanks for the weekly meetings of the Asuncion Anglican youth, giving thanks for recent meetings in Remansito, where there was much evidence of commitment on the part of the 'King of kings' young people. They organise events with great enthusiasm and dedication, and God spoke to them with power and conviction about the Faith, focusing on the truth that nothing is impossible for God. The young people are meeting together to study the Bible in groups using SEAN courses. They also enjoy activities such as singing, break dancing, snacks and sports.

Tim Curtis asks us to keep praying for the Enxet Old Testament translation:

- thank the Lord for the final checks on the book of Jeremiah and the Psalms
- for translator Asuncion's family, his wife Cipriana and his son Valentin and daughter in law Miriam and for the new baby which was due to be born the second week in May. The young couple have been married for 18 months
- for Juan Martinez and his family
- for repairs to the electric pump which loads water so that there will be a better water supply

**Week Weds 29 May – Tues 4 June – Believers form a community – devoted to fellowship**

*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

Pray focus for the week: Anglican Marriage Encounter

Please pray for the Encounter taking place this weekend. Let us pray for all the couples who are taking part in leading the weekend, especially Ron & Nicky Irene and the testimony couples. We also pray for the couples who have registered that they would be able to attend and that the experience will draw them to the Lord and his love.

With grateful hearts we thank the Lord for all the small groups associated with Anglican churches in Paraguay. May the members grow as disciples and we pray that the groups would increasingly be welcoming to new members.

Please pray for the Diocesan Executive Committee which is meeting this week, lifting up before the throne of grace Bishops Peter & Andres, Agripino, Donald, Luis, Mags, Romualdo and Sara. The Diocese is facing many economic challenges and we pray for wisdom and a moving from dependency to responsible stewardship, and from maintenance to mission. We pray that the committee would be gifted with good communication skills and for a good response in the congregations to their proposals. We pray for Bishop Peter as he is visiting the congregations and teaching on finances, generosity and tithing.

Please pray for plans to start community Bible study groups which are open to those with faith in Jesus and also those who do not yet have faith in Jesus.

Miriam Greco and Sally Bartlett ask us to pray for the St Andrew's mums who meet week by week to study the Bible together. They give thanks for recently completing the SEAN course, The Big Picture, a 20 lesson overview of the Bible, its books, topics and principles doctrines. The ladies who attend the group have very diverse spiritual backgrounds and have found friendship and fellowship together on Thursday afternoons. Please pray for the next phase of the group as they embark on a new study together.

Jesus, just as you met the Samaritan lady at the well and offered her living water, we continue to pray for all the large and small gatherings across Paraguay where the audio Bible in Guarani is being listened to, may this be like fresh cool water in a sun parched land, life giving and life transforming! Amen.

### **Week Weds 5 – Tue 11 June - Believers form a community – devoted to sharing food and the Lord's Supper**

*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*

Let us give thanks for regular worship Sunday by Sunday in the churches and groups of the Anglican Church in Paraguay. Please pray for ideas and creativity for those working on liturgies for Sunday worship.

#### Prayer Focus for the week: Church leaders in Asuncion

Please pray for the Asuncion church leaders who are continuing to learn more about discipling through the material that Pastor Mark Swiger has been sharing with them. Let us pray for each leader involved that their hearts would be open to learn, that they would be more deeply grounded in the Word, choose practices which the Holy Spirit can use to bring transformation. We thank the Lord for the opportunities given to grow in community and to learn together.

Please pray for those you know who would like to be able to attend church or a small group for fellowship but for a variety of reasons are unable to do so, that they would be enabled to take part in Christian fellowship. Please pray for Carmen and Mario, Tuti and Reina, and Maria. May close to our hearts know God's fellowship and friendship in days of difficulty and loneliness.

Sally Bartlett asks us to pray for St Andrews Chapel:

- thanking the Lord for the sermon teaching series on the Big Story of the Bible which will shortly be completed, asking that the material covered will be of lasting value to those who have listened and reflected
- thanking the Lord for the contribution of the Laura, the Salinas, the Rodgers and the Rakas families and asking for blessing as they move on to new places to live and work, may they quickly find churches to belong to
- for the more permanent members of the community who offer welcome and support to newer members
- for the planning of the next teaching series on discipleship remembering those who regularly preach, teach and lead: Alison, Chris, Gwen, Hannah, Jaqui, Mags, Sam, Sarah, Sally, Steve, Sherri and Tim
- for members of the church who face demanding or difficult personal situations that they would be comforted, filled with grace, mercy and patience

The church in Luque ask us to pray for:

- more musicians
- rapid learning by those who are learning to play instruments
- wisdom as they plan to carry out improvements in the fabric of the building
- for members who are facing difficult long-term health issues
- give thanks for new young people who are starting to attend

Let us pray for Spring of Eternal Life Church: this church is in a Chaco community which has been characterised by hardness of heart and conflict. We pray for hard hearts to be softened and for justice and mercy.

Please pray for an increase in openness to hospitality amongst the members of our churches here in Paraguay.

### **Week Weds 12 – Tue 18 June - Believers form a community – united in prayer**

*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*

We give thanks for all the prayer gatherings that take place in churches in Paraguay and we pray for greater unity amongst those who are followers of Jesus. May the believers focus on the much that unites them and be gracious in the things in which there are differences of opinion.

#### Prayer Focus for the week: Chris and Alison Hawksbee

Please pray for Chris and Alison in their varied responsibilities. Thanking the Lord for their involvement in St Andrews Chapel, their encouragement to the believers in Zeballos Cue, we pray that they would be granted boldness and wisdom. We pray for Chris as he encourages development work, asking for blessing on him and his helper Esteban Galeano. We pray for the discipleship ministry that Chris is now leading in La Patria. We give thanks for Alison's role as academic director at Asuncion Christian Academy and pray that she would be given strength and good health and creativity in all her school activities.

Please pray for Christ the Saviour Church that the members would grow in wisdom and discernment, and that the Lord would help all the families who are attending. We pray for pastor Ronnie and his family and that he would be wise in his leadership in the church and as he also helps in the Cathedral and for him in his duties as school chaplain.

In your prayers this week please remember the Chaco pastors Lucio, Juan, Mario and Robert and deacons Romualdo, Mario, Niño Pepe and Agripino in their working alongside believers facing many challenges in the Chaco. We praise the Lord for reports of conversions, healings and prayers for freedom from the powers of darkness. May there be an outpouring of hope in the Lord and his eternal plans and purposes in times of great social change and the erosion of traditional family values.

Let us pray for nurse Beryl Baker that the Lord will lead her very clearly regarding her future and give her help in all her current duties. We pray for those she nurses and those with whom she is able to pray and encourage in their faith in Jesus.

In the pressures and challenges of school life we pray for all Christian teachers that they would find time to encourage their workmates and pray for the children they work with. We pray especially for: Alison H, Sam W, Jaqui & Deborah and the Anglican members of St Andrews staff: Gwen Carlisle, Mags Southern, Victor Santa Cruz, Caroline B, Esteban R, Hannah T, Nicky I, Raquel G, Neill B, Noemi R, Sarah M, Rita C, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B, and chaplain Ronald I.

### **Week Weds 19 – Tues 25 May – Additions!**

*And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:47*

St Andrews School celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this week. Please pray for the celebrations this week that the glory would be given to the God. Remember in prayer each child, family, teacher and staff member who has passed through the school praying that the Lord would bring fruit from the seeds that were sown.

#### Prayer Focus for the week

This week please pray for St Andrews Head Teacher Gwen Carlisle. We thank the Lord for her leadership in times of changing social and cultural patterns May the Lord always endue her with wisdom from on high, and use her gifts to His glory. May she be given health and well being spiritually, mentally and physically.

Mags Southern shares: As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations we have a project to redo the bathrooms at the Annexe school which haven't been done since they were built! Any profit from the events will be put towards them as well as fundraising things. It will be a long term project since they will cost £10,000. We pray for the school's fundraising projects that they would bring the Lord's blessings to others and form in the pupils habits of generosity and compassion.

We thank the Lord for the young people who are preparing to be baptised in July. We thank the Lord for their lives, faith in Jesus and their witness to their families. Our prayer is that other young people will come to know the Lord too. May our young people have in their hearts evangelism and church growth – ‘a person who knows Jesus is a person who is going to heaven and whom has been won for the Kingdom!’ Esteban Romero

Please pray for the church in Zeballos Cue for:

- Pastor Luis and his wife Regina
- Charlie and Raquel Mendez who are helping out in the church, Charlie is preaching and is now the treasurer following on from the sudden the death of the previous treasurer. Raquel is leading ladies Bible studies. We pray for them as they start their married life and ministry together.
- The Lord to put in order areas that have been weak in the past

Please pray for the San Juan group of churches:

- we give thanks for growth in the Mirador church
- ask the Lord for special wisdom for Pastor Lucho and his wife as they deal with complex pastoral situations
- transparency and accountability amongst the leaders
- for the church in Remansito that the Lord would bring healing and wholeness to young people whose lives have been damaged through sexual abuse and promiscuity

Please pray for FEISA:

- for Director Ana Maria that the Lord would bless her leadership and continue to give her wisdom
- giving thanks for this year’s record number of students
- giving thanks for the improving financial situation of the institution
- that new courses would be approved
- for Donald Brooks who is now lecturing including on Biblical worldview

### **Week Weds 26 – Sun 30 June – Be prepared**

*“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favourable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 2 Tim 4:2*

Please pray for Esteban Romero and other youth leaders as they prepare for the July winter youth camp. May they be guided by the Lord in their practical preparations and planning and in the choosing of topics and activities.

This week you might like to take time to meditate on the advice above, given by the Apostle Paul to the younger Timothy as he started out in church ministry. You might like pray for yourself or your church or the church in Paraguay or for other situations.

Questions to consider: How might I become more prepared in the Word of God?  
How can I share Biblical truths in unfavourable times?  
Am I becoming more patient?  
Are there situations where I am being called to correct, rebuke or encourage?  
How can I do these things using God’s strength and wisdom rather than my own?

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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