

Paraguay Prayer Calendar November & December 2013



**Bishops Peter & Andres and Claire with Kids Club
Concepcion**



**Baptism
St Andrews Cathedral**



**Drama session
FESIA teacher training college**

Week Fri 1 – Thurs 7 Nov: Telling of the goodness of the Lord

So we your people and the sheep of your pasture will give thanks to you forever; to all generations we will tell of your praise. Psalm 79:13

Give thanks for rain in the Chaco, in Makxawaya, Rio Verde and El Estribo. Pray that there will continue to be further rain in areas where it is needed.

We thank for the visit to Paraguay of a Christian motivational speaker born without arms or legs, Nick Vujicic, who spoke to very large crowds. There was a meeting especially for schools and St Andrews School took all the secondary pupils along. It took place in the CFA Pentecostal church and 12,000 school students attended. He also spoke to crowds on two evenings with people watching outside on screens as well as inside. He visited the Senate and many senators knelt to pray for the country. One young woman, Martha said, 'Nick's message touched something very deep in my heart and I want to find out more and start attending a church'. Praise the Lord and pray for all who listened to the message, that there will be great fruit for the Kingdom.

Tim Curtis gives thanks for the in service Bible translation training which he is attending this week in Sao Paulo, Brazil run by the Bible Societies. Let us pray for Tim and all the other translators who are taking part in this week's training that it will be of great benefit to their work.

Noemi Colman from FEISA says: we want to give thanks to the Lord because the 3rd year students finished their final teaching practice on Friday – that's to say that they have very nearly completed their teacher training. Let's pray for each one as they finish their training and seek employment. We pray for 2nd years doing teaching practice this week.

Chris Hawksbee and Pastor Agustin Maidana ask us to pray for meetings with the pastors, deacons and church workers in the La Patria villages. The plan is to meet monthly and getting around all the villages in time. 'So far we have managed 2 meetings. This week our meeting is due to be in Laguna Hu and we are working on the theme of "what is the church". With having the meetings in the different villages we hope that other church members, like the church councils show up. Community leaders have come and have appreciated the teaching and time together.'

Along with the St Andrews Cathedral congregation we give thanks for the recent baptism of 5 young people and children: Aaron, Atiana, Benjamin, Tobias & Ximena. The service was a very special time of fellowship with the members of the English speaking chapel attending the service and a shared fellowship lunch afterwards. Let's pray for the young ones who made this step of commitment to the Lord that they will be blessed as they walk in the Lord's paths and plans for their lives.

Peter & Sally Bartlett give thanks for the recent opportunity to attend the Gafcon conference in Nairobi, with the participation of Anglicans from 40 different countries. Peter attended training for bishops and Sally a women's conference with ladies in church leadership from many and varied cultures. May they be given wisdom as they share what they learned.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9

Week Fri 8 – Thurs 14 Nov: Walking as God's workmanship

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 We are God's workmanship and created to make a difference!

We give thanks for pastor Lucho & his wife Estela and pray that they will be refreshed this week as they holiday and rest. May the Lord give them new strength, fresh vision and his enabling for the tasks he has called them to.

On Saturday EMA Anglican Marriage Encounter are holding an end of year retreat for couples. We pray that this will help the couples that take part to walk together in the good works that the Lord has planned for them.

Sharon McCririe asks us to praise God for sharing and prayer times with the brain mapping technician, the girl selling vitamins, the scheduler for hyperbaric treatments and two other patients. 'How in the world the Father stays ahead of all of us opening our eyes to what He is doing no matter what we get ourselves into is nothing short of amazing. Every apparent setback is a set up to be about our Father's business.' We thank the Lord for the special gift that Sharon has of sharing with the people she meets, Jesus and his hope. Sharon asks us pray that she will be given the Lord's direction to know the new place the Lord is calling her to wherever it may be.

Please pray for the recovery of Nilda Arce (6) from Makxawayá. Nilda has been in hospital with a serious leg infection / condition. Doctors extracted a large amount of pus from the knee area. She has just been transferred to the indigenous hospital in Limpio.

Please pray for Pastor Ronald Irene's oldest daughter Natasha who undergoing 6 months physiotherapy for scoliosis of the spine. We pray that Natasha will be quickly healed from this affliction and that she will finish the school year well and be a testimony of God's goodness and power to her classmates.

Thank you for praying for Teo and Lidia as they support Teo's brother through a very difficult time as he battles with cancer. The nephew who was very ill is now recovered but the family have suffered another blow as Teo's sister is in the final stages of liver cancer and has returned to Concepcion to spend her last days with the family there. We pray for the whole family to know God's peace and compassionate plans for good.

Please pray for the pastors and their wives: 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 & Felicianá; Romualdo & Yrna; Donald & Caroline, that they would be strengthened as couples to walk in the good works that the Lord has prepared for them to do for his glory.

'When you are baptized with the Holy Ghost, there is only One you see, One you love, One you live for from early morning till late at night, One you die for. Every thought is gripped and held enthralled by the Master of human destiny, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole life is devoted to Him.' Oswald Chamber – God's Workmanship

Week Fri 15 – Thurs 21 Nov: Pleasing God

It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:5,6

Pastor Lucho asks us to pray for the St John pastoral workers: Salomon, Eligio, Rafael and Victor as they serve God in various ministries, may they bear much fruit and increase in the knowledge of God and help others to do the same.

The church in Zeballos Cue ask us to pray with them for Sandra a young woman with respiratory problems that her recovery would be rapid and long lasting.

Several of the young people in the Luque church are hoping to be baptised in December. Pray for them as they prepare for this important step in their lives. Some also hope to travel to Chile for the Provincial Youth Camp in January. Please pray for their fundraising activities. And we also pray for those who are planning the camp.

Bishop Peter and Administrator Teo give thanks for their recent trip to Chaco communities and churches, for the opportunity to teach and talk about giving and stewardship. We pray that the Chaco pastors' faith in the Lord will be increased as they consider this important area of church life.

We pray for pastoral worker Luis Cabañas as he starts a new evangelistic project. May the Lord grant him wisdom, favour with those he evangelises, and others of like mind who will stand beside him in his new venture for the Lord.

Please pray for the continuing work on building 4 adobe homes in El Estribo and the deacons' home in La Paciencia. Pastor Lucho asks us to pray for the Lord's wisdom and leading regarding the development of the Mirador church building. We thank the Lord for the new people who are starting to attend this church and pray especially for those who work with neighbourhood children who come along to services.

*walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,
bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10*

Week Fri 22 – Thurs 28 Nov: Believing in God's promises

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. Hebrews 11:11

We thank the Lord for Rev Donald Brooks and pray for him his church ministry as he chooses to serve others rather than his own interests. We pray for him as he is ordained In Saint Andrews Cathedral this Sunday as Presbyter, may the Lord bless and develop his ministry of service and teaching in the church. And may his wife Caroline and children Tomás and Maia be blessed too.

Esperanza Foster Home asks us to give thanks for:

- being able to stay on the in house
- twins F & F who are growing in confidence and good health
- improvements in the well being of 3 year old M who came to the home with a difficult emotional background and malnourishment. Potential adoptive parents have started to visit him. If they are the parents of God's choosing we pray that all will go smoothly and that he will be with his forever family in God's perfect timing
- God's promise to give children in the home a secure home and future filled with hope and well being

We pray for childless couples in Paraguay who would love to have a child, asking the Lord to open doors for miracles. We pray for an increase in families who are willing to offer foster homes to children at risk. We pray for the adoption agency that their personnel would be given wisdom and divine guidance as they select adoptive parents and place children in new families. We pray for all children who are returned to biological families that they would know the protection of the Sovereign Lord and his provision for their futures.

We give thanks for the reorganisation of the toy library, and pray for the sessions that will be taking place on Saturdays in St John's, King of Kings, San Lorenzo and an NGO in Remansito. May the opportunities for development and well being that these sessions offer be part of God's big plan for each child that takes part.

Pray for a good take up for the training course being offered organised for children's workers in Anglican churches.

We pray along with Bishop Andres, Estela and Claire in Concepcion for:

- the future of the church and that The Lord will continue to raise up strong leaders at a time when Bishop Andres approaches retirement
- for new youth leaders to emerge as the current leaders are moving away due to work
- the church council planning for changes as Bishop Andres retires next year
- for the young people who are starting to serve in different capacities
- preparations for end of year celebrations and events

We pray for the Paraguayan government and President Cartes, facing challenges and also opportunities. May corruption decrease and godly justice prevail. Also pray for a fairer distribution of wealth in Paraguay so that those who are living at subsistence level would be enabled to find work with better rates of pay.

Week Fri 29 Nov – Thurs 5 Dec: Daring to be different

It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command. Hebrews 11:23

As we enter the Advent season we reflect take time to pray for all who face the challenge of choosing God's paths when they differ from the viewpoint of the prevailing culture, that they may be guided clearly by the Word and prayer.

We pray for the young people in Luque who are being baptised this weekend. May this significant step of obedience be important for each one as they seek to follow Jesus. We pray for Esteban and Iris Romero as they head up the youth work, thanking the Lord for their enthusiasm, sweet spirits and love for the young people and children of the church and neighbourhood.

Rev Ronald Irene Irene asks us to pray for Christ the Saviour Church in Villa Guarani and we pray for:

- Rachel, Natasha and Marcelo thanking the Lord for them as they lead worship
- levels 1 & 2 discipleship training courses to be a benefit to those who are seeking to grow as disciples
- development of the church's prayer life
- commitment to membership of the church
- that the brethren would learn to tithe and faithfully give offerings

Pastor Agustin and Teresa ask us to pray for the children who attend the Cathedral Saturday children's club. May these young people choose to follow Jesus and be different to other young people in their neighbourhood.

Let us pray for church leaders in the Chaco as their churches face the challenge of becoming more financially viable. We pray for Niño Pepe, Roberto, Mario R, Agripino, Mario C, Lucio, Juan and Romualdo. May they receive vision and direction from the Lord and implement changes which will bring new life to their communities.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all Christian teachers in Paraguay that you will give them wisdom, strength and good judgement as they finish the school year. We pray especially for: Alison H, Hannah, Sam, Jacqui & Deborah and the Anglican members of St Andrews staff: Gwen Carlisle, Mags Southern, Caroline B, Esteban R, Nicky I, Raquel G, Neill B, Noemi R, Sarah M, Rita C, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B, and chaplain Ronald I. We continue to pray for Julio and Nancy and the maintenance and cleaning teams. Amen.

Lord Jesus we thank you for a good response to the first 4 classes of the Parenting School which St Andrews School has started. The parents are now deciding if they want to continue and do a full course. Many have shown interest in this. We pray for plans to run a full course next year.

Week Fri 6 – Thurs 12 Dec: Choosing to bless future generations

It was by faith that Isaac promised blessings for the future to his sons, Jacob and Esau. Hebrews 11:20

As we expectantly wait the coming of the promised King let us pray that our lives will be used by God to bless future generations. We pray for all in Paraguay who work with children and young people, for parents and grandparents, teachers, social workers, doctors and nurses that they would be drawn to following Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and so their teachings and examples of life would be used by the Father to pour King Jesus' blessings into young lives.

Please pray for the leaders of the Anglican Church in Paraguay, that each one would be refined as an instrument of God's blessing to others in their varied ministries. 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.

Good news from FEISA: Praise God that the Evangelical University has officially approved the revision of our complete degree course, which now includes a 2 year Superior Technical Course for Pre-school Helpers. Including this Technical Course means we shall be able to give good training to a wider range of students, some of whom have a great love of children but find academic work difficult. The Technical Course will provide such students with a recognized qualification as Early Years auxiliary teachers, after two years of study. Please pray for next year's new students that the ones God is calling to this vocation would respond to His call.

The University also approved our linking the Early Years Education Degree course with education in the first three years of Primary School. This means that our Early Years teachers will be trained to teach children up to Third Grade level. We do praise God for these new opportunities opening before us. How good God is to include us in His wonderful plans to make known His love to those around us! Please pray for Director Ana and the faculty staff as they plan for next year's academic programme.

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern ask us to pray for the intake of new children for next year. They are expecting a full class with little space for families who might be new to the school as there is great interest on the part of ex pupils to put their own children in the school. In Asuncion there is currently a shortage of school places in the city with so many new businesses moving in. That reflects the boom in the economy and so many companies want to work here. We also pray for the selection process in the Annex school that the families God chooses would obtain places in the school.

We give thanks for the young people who are having guitar lessons with Pastor Luis and pray that they may grow in confidence, musical ability and sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they train to lead worship.

Please pray for Lidio Sandoval from Dos Palmas, El Estribo aged 20, recently transferred to the Limpio hospital after a motor bike accident. His cracked spine requires an operation. Pray for the doctors who are in charge of his case that they would be used by the Lord to bring healing and wholeness to Lidio and that he would come to know the Lord as his Rock and Fortress in this time a great testing.

Week Fri 13 – Thurs 19 Dec: Sharing with God's people

It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:24,25

Choosing to be part of and share in the pressures on God's people comes with a price tag. We remember the price that the Father paid when he sent his Son into the world to save the world. We pray for pastors and church leaders that they would lead in the faith given to them by the Lord.

Please pray for the pastors as they plan for the January holiday period. We pray that in all the busyness of Christmas and end of year activities that they would be given strength in the heat. We also pray that they would plan wisely for rest and vacation time. We pray that the churches extra activities would be wisely used to welcome new people and fringe attenders.

Tim Curtis ask us to pray for Juan Martínez and Asunción Rojas as they work on the final stage of checking the Enxet Old Testament. Pray that the team will be able to begin work on the revision of the 1997 Enxet New Testament in December, so that the target of finishing the Project at the end of 2014 may be met.

We pray for pastor Ronald Irene and Nicky and their family as they start their yearly vacation, that they would enjoy quality time together, be able to rest and enjoy each other's company. We pray for good health for Natasha, Tamara, Daniel and Samuel. Ronald asks us to pray that the Lord will give his wisdom and discernment to fulfil what he is called to do in Christ the Saviour church, in St Andrews Cathedral, in St Andrews School and in the Marriage Encounter Ministry.

The church in Concepcion gives thanks for all the children and young people who meet regularly and have a growing hunger for The Lord and his word. Please pray for the Christmas Nativity plays and other events led by the children and young people. These will have an evangelistic emphasis as we aim to reach out to more families with the gospel.

Donald Brooks: please pray for the Luque church for the pastoral interviews and the discipleship programme.

Please continue to pray for the young people involved in EJE, especially Guille, David, Clari and Achu. Due to various circumstances they were not able to hold the Youth Encounter that they were planning to hold in November and are seeking the Lord's guidance for the future of this ministry.

Week Fri 20 – Thurs 26 Dec

And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honour at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. Hebrews 1:2,3

We thank the Father for sending his only Son to earth to be incarnate, and pray that the Son will speak deeply into our hearts this week as we celebrate His birth. We pray that many will open their hearts to receive him in this week.

Let us pray for the many indigenous people who will be returning from their work places to their communities to celebrate Christmas and spend time with their families. We pray especially for the Pastors and leaders as they prepare Christmas services that Christmas services will radiate God's glory and sustaining power. May many hearts be turned towards the Father and the Son this week.

As the weather in Paraguay continues to be very hot and favourable for the reproduction of the mosquito that carries dengue fever we pray for the municipal authorities in challenges that this presents and pray for protection for the weak and vulnerable.

Let's pray for the youth leaders in Remansito, St John and Mirador training for spiritual growth. Also we pray for the formation of pastoral teams in these churches.

We thank the Lord for Pastor Luis' ministry in Zeballos Cue and pray that the Lord would give his vision and energy and wisdom as he seeks to form leadership teams to move the church forwards.

Praying for development in the Chaco:

- we give thanks for the work for Esteban Galeano and pray for that he will be able to continue with the Ministry of Agriculture as an extension worker
- for Chris Hawksbee as he works with a friend who works in the government planning department for projects directed to reducing poverty in the Chaco communities
- for on help and advice for the NGO Global Chaco with project ideas for them to present within and outside of Paraguay

St Andrews Chapel gives thanks for God's faithfulness to his people, especially members of the community who have health problems this year, and ask us to pray that during the holiday period we would encounter rest and time to be closer to Jesus.

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, when Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee*

Week Fri 27 – Tues 31 Dec: Who is my leader?

What we do see is Jesus, who was given a position "a little lower than the angels"; and because he suffered death for us, he is now "crowned with glory and honour." Yes, by God's grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. Hebrews 2:9,10

At the end of this busy year with its challenges and the changes that have occurred it's a good moment to take stock and ask ourselves the question; 'Who is my leader?' God the Father promises us that Jesus is the perfect leader, so it's a fitting time to reaffirm our commitment to His leadership and places our lives afresh in His hands for Him to direct us and lead us as best fits His plans.

May the Lord give you space and time to reflect and to be grateful for the year that is finishing and may he continue to bring his salvation to you as you humbly make space in your heart for him.

We pray for nurse Beryl as she seeks the Lord's direction for her life and for wisdom in knowing move into the next phase that the Lord has planned for her life.

We thank the Lord for Charlie and Raquel Mendez starting out in pastoral ministry and give thanks to the Lord for the contribution that they have made this year to the life of the church in Zeballos Cue and we pray that the Lord will guide them in the next step of their life and ministry together, for the honour and glory of his name. Amen.

Three FEISA students (Rocio, Luz Maria and Betsabe) participated in a camp organized by another faculty of the Evangelical University. One of the students is a committed Christian but the other two aren't. Let's pray that the word of God sown in their hearts will bear fruit and that each would respond to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, and in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.*

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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