

Paraguay Prayer Calendar November & December 2010



Growing Together Consultation



Closing service Diocesan Synod



United Youth Service

Let us be thankful: Mon 1 – Sun 7 Nov

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28

As we continue to receive the immovable Kingdom with gratitude we rejoice and thank God for:

- abundant rain in the last 2 weeks, especially in the Chaco, praying for regular rains so that crops complete their cycle providing food for people
- the Diocesan Synod, during which Bishop Peter outlined the road map for a healthy church. It was very positive, providing a lot of in depth study material for the representatives to take home with them and work through in their local churches.
- Anglicans in Paraguay as they meet together and seek to worship God in spirit and in truth
- the encouragement and fellowship that was enjoyed by delegates from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay who attended the Growing Together Consultation last week in Asunción
- the diocesan archives coming alive again as Peter and Pat Sanderson travel around the Chaco, please pray for their safety and for God given opportunities to share the history of the Enxet people
- Zeballos Cue sewing group are making cosmetic bags to sell at the church's 3rd fundraising activity for their youth activity room. We thank God for the independence, empowerment and confidence that new sewing skills and sales are giving to several church ladies.
- the work with the Moringa trees is growing rapidly, an NGO is financing a planting programme in El Estribo, to include 8 communities. They have promised to buy and market the dried leaves and seeds. This will be a very important income for the whole community. Praise the Lord for that.
- 4 people who listened to the message of salvation and received Bibles last week
- the positive response of the Yatnata community to pastor Agustin Maidana's monthly visits
- 6 young people in the Chaco who have signed up to study the Abundance Life in Christ course
- Forgiveness given and received last month as a result of St John's reconciliation service
- FEISA students who have impacted local schools: teachers who receive FEISA students comment on their creativity, reliability and their beautifully prepared lesson plans and resources and many schools visited during teaching practice are continuing to use the student teachers' ideas

Strength in weakness: Mon 8 – Sun 14 September

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. Hebrews 12:12, 13

Please join us in praying for the following situations:

In their work **translating and checking OT texts** Tim Curtis, Asunción, Martin and Juan note: the intensive checking, constant reading through the texts is quite mentally tiring, so we would value your prayers for stamina. We continue to encourage local Enxet speakers to improve their reading. Some of the young readers visit us in the evening when supper for them (cooked by Tim) is also offered.

The *Journey into the Paraguayan Chaco* book deadline is very tight. To fit into everybody's schedules, all pages must be at the printers by mid November. Please pray for Nicky, the Wycliffe Associates page designer who is a busy mum, John doing the graphics who has hit computer problems and Caroline Gilmour White juggling these two and the printers in St Albans by email. The book will feature stories by Jack Sanderson of life amongst the Enxet (or Lengua as they were then known) in the 1930's and include many fascinating colour drawings of the Chaco.

Alison Hawksbee is busy studying and taking exams for her Open University course. She has been working very hard on this course, apart from her teaching at the Asuncion Christian Academy. Also pray for her as she goes to camp with a group of youngsters from the school.

We pray for **healing** for those who are weak or ill, in body or mind or spirit remembering the elderly, Erika, Octavia, Elsa & Maria

Esperanza Foster Home, for Teresa Maidana, Aunties Juana, Isabel, Gladys and Laura in their care of Barbara, Victor, Antonio & Sebastian, as preparations are made the end of the year vacations, and praying for adequate processing of the children's papers that God's will be done in the long term family situations of these precious young lives.

Sharon McCririe, Hector and Dilia and **the Puerta** ministry value your prayers in this time of adjustment and challenges. We thank God for his mercy towards those whose lives have been devastated by alcohol and drug misuse.

Please pray for **St Andrews pupils Chaco trips** and projects, that the Spirit would help in all aspects and that God would be glorified in the Chaco communities and the lives of the students.

*When we pray for the Spirit's help ... we will simply fall down at the Lord's feet in our weakness.
There we will find the victory and power that comes from His love. Andrew Murray*

Get rid of the clutter: Mon 15 – Sun 21 November

Such a large crowd of witnesses is all around us! So we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us. We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side God's throne! So keep your mind on Jesus, who put up with many insults from sinners. Then you won't get discouraged and give up. Hebrews 12: 1-3

As the Paraguayan spring turns to summer let's take the opportunity for some **decluttering**. Closet clutter is easily dealt with, but other kinds of clutter and baggage are more difficult to deal with: conflictive relationships, unrealistic expectations, over commitments and things that get in the way of the important things in life. As you pray this week take time to allow God to speak to you and re fix your eyes on Jesus.

Please pray that all the clergy and their wives would be guided by Jesus and grow in faith remembering +**Peter & Sally Bartlett** & +**Andres & Estela Rodríguez**; pastors **Agustin & Teresa Maidana**, **Ed & Marie Brice**, **Juan & Alicia Sosa**, **Lucio & Priscilla Romero**, **Luis & Regina Echeverría**, **Mario & Rosa Caballero**, **Robert & Cristina Fernández**, **Elvio & Lorenza Cabañas**, and **Cefe & Ana Romero** and deacons **Agripino & Nilda Cerro**, **Ronald & Nicky Irene**, **Mario & Agustina Recalde**, **Niño Pepe & Feliciano Aguero** & **Romualdo & Yrna Rojas**, pastoral workers **Donald & Caroline Brooks** & **Lucho & Estela Robles**, and all lay leaders as they disciple those under their pastoral care to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

Please pray for those studying the **Maturing in Christ** course, +Peter, Agustín, Ed, Lucho, Luis, Donald, Ronald, Teo, Sally, Teresa, Estela & Laura, that they will continue to apply the teachings to their lives and teach others to advance in spiritual maturity in Christ.

Please pray for **Anglican Marriage Encounter** and for Miguel & Miriam Greco, and Ronald & Nicky Irene, in their ongoing contact with couples who attended the last encounter, praying for all these couples that Christ will be the cornerstone in their relationships.

Please pray for **EJE Youth Encounter**, seeking God's way forward in a time of many changes, and for Charlie Mendez preparing to go to Chile for theological studies next year.

We can be assured that each step deeper into the Lord's Presence will reveal areas in our hearts which need to be cleansed. Do not be afraid. When the Spirit shows you areas of sin, it is not to condemn you but to cleanse you. Francis Frangipane

Fruitful living: Mon 22 – Sun 28 November

Moreover, we have had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:9-11

Ed Brice asks us to pray for this week's **Chaco Bible School on marriage** for pastors and pastoral helpers, from 22 – 26 Nov. Pastor Agustin will be do the logistics and the teaching will be delivered by + Peter, Sally, +Andrés, Estela, Agustín and Ed.

St Andrews and the Annexe school ask for strength for the last few weeks of school. We pray for the teenagers who will be graduating from these schools that their **future lives will produce a harvest of righteousness and peace**. We pray for St Andrews College director, Gwen Carlisle, deputy Mags Southern, Annexe School Head, Victor Santa Cruz, deputy Mirta Moyano, and consultant Nelson Aguilera as they implement change. We pray for all teachers and school staff known to us, that their godly leadership would glorify God and benefit young lives, especially remembering Anglican worshippers: ACA staff: Alison H, Tally and Sam, ASA principal Pat, St Andrews staff: Babs O, Carol M, Caroline B, Linn T, Miriam G, Miguel G, Nicky I, Raquel G, Regina E, Rita C, Ryan M, Sue N, Neill B and chaplain Ronald Irene. Amen.

FEISA directors, Ana Maria and Gloria ask us to pray for God's help as they continue to serve the students and ask for clarity regarding God's plans for the future and wisdom in developing vision. There are 21 students enrolled on the two year degree (which follows on from the diploma), the course is designed to prepare students to take us positions of leadership in educational institutions. Pray that the lives of the degree students would bear much fruit. Please pray for all staff and students as the academic year draws to a close.

The Chaco pastors ask us to pray for the Palo Blanco church, adapting to changes resulting from Teodoro Campestequi's resignation due to immorality. We give thanks for pastor Mario Caballero's visits to the community and pray for families of this community that their marriages will be made stronger.

Sally Bartlett asks us to pray for a group of St Andrews College mothers, meeting to study the Bible and pray, for Amanda, Carolina, Claudia, Gloria, Marcela, Miriam and Steffi, that the Gospel would continue to transform lives and that practical lessons from the lives of Naomi and Ruth would be applied to daily living.

Advent hope: Mon 29 November – Sun 5 December

But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Micah 5:2

The love story between Ruth and Booz takes place in the city of Bethlehem in the midst of difficult circumstances, a period of disobedience, idolatry and violence. Even in times of crisis and deepest despair, there are those who follow God and through whom God works. No matter how discouraging or antagonistic the world may seem, there are always people who follow God. He uses those who are open to him to achieve his purposes.

December 1st is **AIDS awareness day** in Paraguay, we pray for all who have contracted AIDS that their lives will be blessed by the love of the Father, the salvation of the Son and the light of the Holy Spirit and we pray that they will receive acceptance and support in their communities.

This week we pray for the urban Anglican Churches in Paraguay, that hearts will be opened to God, that many will turn to Christ and so have the spiritual veil removed, and that many will follow Jesus being open to be used to achieve Gods purposes.

- **St Pauls Concepción**, for Bishop Andres & Estela and the church council for a fresh anointing and strength
- **St Andrews Cathedral**, for Pastor Agustín & Teresa, Pastor Ronald & Nicky (giving thanks for the safe arrival of baby Samuel), for the end of year activities, Bible studies in San Lorenza and Las Mercedes and Manora, for Agustín's monthly trips to the Chaco, for the Sunday school end of year ceremony and for the church families
- **St Andrews 7pm**, for leaders Ronald (& Nicky), Donald (& Caroline), Sally and Charlie (thanking God for Charlie's engagement to Raquel Greco), thanking God for all who attend and that visitors would be able to quickly integrate into the church, for the development of the music group under Guille's leadership, praying that the church would be able to incorporate more young people who have done EJE Youth Encounter, and thanking God for Bible studies
- **St Andrews Chapel**, thanking God for new attenders and for the spirit of welcome, fellowship and peace that prevails
- **Emanuel Church** Luque, for pastoral worker Donald and the church council, for opportunities for pastoral visits and for the ladies prayer group, praying for families facing difficult circumstances
- **St John's, King of kings & Mirador** for Pastor Lucho & Estela, thanking God for those who are church workers, for training courses, Bible study courses, prayer meetings, pastoral visiting and discipling
- **Redeemer Church**, Zeballos Cue, for Pastor Luis & Regina, for the children's ministry on Saturday mornings, for the preschool, for the youth club and the ladies meetings, that there would be unity in vision for the coming year, and that each member would take up responsibilities in the church

*O come Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery:
Rejoice, rejoice, Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

Granting and receiving favour: Mon 6 – Sun 12 December

Ruth bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?" Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
Ruth 2:10-12

This week tame a time to remember those who God has used as instruments of favour in your life and be grateful!

We praise the Lord that **Nelson Franco** and **Felix González** have started the studying the SEAN Pastoral Theology course. We pray for Nelson as he helps the church in La Herencia/Yatnáta, and for Felix who is helping with the music in St Matthews, Rio Verde.

Chris Hawksbee asks us to pray for a favourable outcome for the **current and proposed cattle projects** which are being considered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The pastors in **Makxawáya, Rio Verde, El Estribo and La Patria** ask us to pray for the pastors, deacons, pastoral helpers, church councils, the elderly, the youth and children, for school teachers and for families to be strengthened. We also pray for good health for community members in times of extreme heat.

We pray for nurse **Beryl Baker** as she juggles many demands serving and showing kindness through health care. We pray for the health promoters that they will be encouraged in their work. We also pray for nurse Ruth Cabrera that the Lord will open the doors for her. Amen.

We pray for healing for **President Fernando Lugo**. May he be continued to strengthened during chemotherapy, may he be filled with wisdom and may he govern in the fear of the Lord. We also pray for all those we know who are sick, troubled or fearful, remembering Fermina undergoing chemotherapy & Maria recovering from surgery. Thank you, Jesus, for your kindness and favour towards the weak and fearful. Amen.

“The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said. “The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.” Ruth 2:9, 20

The family: Paraguay’s treasure: Mon 13 – Sun 19 December

Boaz married Ruth, and the LORD blessed her with a son. After his birth, the women said to Naomi: Praise the LORD! Today he has given you a grandson to take care of you. We pray that the boy will grow up to be famous everywhere in Israel. He will make you happy and take care of you in your old age, because he is the son of your daughter-in-law. And she loves you more than seven sons of your own would love you. Naomi loved the boy and took good care of him. The neighbourhood women named him Obed, but they called him “Naomi’s Boy.” When Obed grew up he had a son named Jesse, who later became the father of King David. Ruth 3:13-17

We thank God for **Javier & Melody Brice’s wedding** last weekend. We pray that they would settle into their new home and that Christ the King of love will bind them with a bond of love that cannot be broken. May Christ always be the third person at the feast and the constant companion on the road. Amen.

We thank God for our **clergy families**, for spouses, children and grandchildren. O King Jesus, you are the cornerstone that makes us one. Come and save us, you made us from clay, bring peace and harmony to our family relationships we pray. Amen.

We thank God for **gift of children and young people** in the Anglican churches in Paraguay. King Jesus, their names are written on your palm; pour your blessings Lord on each of their days. Amen.

We thank God for 2 more **adobe homes** which have been built in El Estribo and for the well which was dug with good results. Please pray that this good model will be observed by other communities and that they will start investigating how to go about such building work. In La Patria, an NGO Mingara is employing Pastor Agripino to make the adobes for the model building (he has also built himself an adobe beehive which is functioning well). Please pray that this project will continue to prosper Chaco families.

We thank God for **beehives** and for the gift of honey. Some of the unpaid Chaco pastors have beehives, enabling them to generate cash towards supporting their families. Please pray that they will be conscientious in the management of their hives and get the desired results.

Almighty God we pray for the **government of Paraguay**, in their seeking to implement legislation which many churches consider to be potentially detrimental to healthy family life in Paraguay. We pray for your mercy in difficult times when your truth is not embraced, for your wisdom and grace in our speech that we may honour your name, those whom we know and meet, and your plan for humanity. Amen

Along with Marie Brice we give thanks for the **families of Rio Verde**, especially the new children’s materials. We pray for the young people of Rio Verde that the church will be given ideas for relating to them and for those who have received Bibles with enthusiasm that their spiritual eyes will be opened as they read the Word and turn to Christ. Amen.

Tidings of great joy: Mon 20 – Sun 26 December

And the angel said to them, ‘Do not fear. For behold, I give you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this is a sign for you. You will find the babe wrapped, lying in a manger. Luke 2:10-12

Christ our King, we rejoice in your birth with hearts that long for justice and peace. We pray that you will be the **centre of our celebrations** and we pray that all the Christmas events which take place in the Anglican Church in Paraguay will help those who do not yet know you to focus their eyes on you. Amen.

This week we pray that we will find space and time to **worship the new born king**. May we receive the tidings of great joy into our hearts and may we share this joy with others. Amen.

Deacon Romualdo Rojas requests that we pray for the **Christmas celebrations in Makxawáya**. Families will be travelling from different parts of the Chaco to join together to celebrate Christ's birth. Let us pray for Pastor Juan and Romualdo in these busy days that the Christmas services will be significant times in the lives of all who attend.

Pastor Lucio asks us to pray for the preparations for an **evangelistic campaign** which will take place in February. We pray for unity in the planning and that hearts will be stirred to find Jesus, just as the shepherds sought and found him in the manger.

We pray for Marie Brice preparing **visual teaching material for indigenous ladies** that these materials will bring glad tidings to the lives of women in the Chaco. We also pray for Marie as she helps in the translation of Jack Sanderson's book, Journey into the Paraguayan Chaco. Thank you for the creativity that you so generously bestow on your people. Amen.

*I open the stable door, I kneel before the infant, I worship with the shepherds, I adore the Christ child.
I give my love with Mary and Joseph I wonder at the 'Word made flesh'.
I am aware of the love of God, I sing glory with the angels,
I offer my gifts with the wise men, I receive the Living Lord.
I hold Him in my hands and go on my way rejoicing, glorifying and praising God.* David Adam

Honouring God resolutions: Mon 27 - Fri 31 December

The influential theologian Jonathon Edwards often made resolutions in order to honour God in his daily living. For example:

- Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly, and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same
- Resolved, to do always what I can towards making, maintaining, and preserving peace, when it can be done without an overbalancing detriment in other respects. Dec. 26, 1722.
- Resolved, always to do that, which I shall wish I had done when I see others do it. Aug. 11, 1723.

Over the next few days you might like to take time to reflect on the ways in which you have honoured God during 2010, remembering that honouring includes our thoughts and actions and asking Him to guide you in the decisions you take to honour him during 2011.

Please pray for Christ's church in Paraguay for all believers that we may live godly, respectful and good lives... *For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.* 1 Peter 2:15 - 17

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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