



Claire's Prayer Letter
October 2013

Dear Praying Friends,

I hope this finds you well. Time just flies and a lot has happened in these last months. Here is an update both of what has been happening and points for prayer.

Visitors

A lot of people used their summer holidays to visit Paraguay and we had the privilege of having two teams visit us as part of Mission Paraguay as well as a visit from Alison Crawford who lived here for 3 years, and a visit from Bishop Ken Clarke and Chris Bloomfield. These visits were all a great encouragement for the church and for those who visited. My sister and brother in law are due to visit in a few weeks time too for their first visit which we are looking forward to.

People you have been praying for:

- Eladio continues to recover from his operation and is grateful for all the prayer.
- Jose is still in prison. His hearing has been cancelled at the last minute 8 times which is hard for him and the family. It is due to take place DV on 8th and 10th October. His mum hasn't been well as she has become very depressed because of it.
- Gaspar continues to do well despite many obstacles and is becoming more and more involved in the life of the church.

Chaco

Santa ELISA is an area of the Chaco where we work with Indigenous people. They have been living at the side of the road for decades while waiting for the government to allocate them their own land. It has been news headlines recently that the £50,000 approximately that was allocated to them for their land, and supposedly handed over to an organization that was to sort out the process for them has disappeared. We aren't sure how it will be sorted out but are praying that the money will be found so that they can have their own community in which to live. Also many parts of the Chaco are in drought. There are future plans to provide running water to the Chaco so we are also praying that this will happen and that meanwhile the rain will reach the areas where it is needed.

Employment and Justice

In Concepcion there is a lot of unemployment. Due to this people are often desperate for work and therefore consent to unacceptable work conditions. Many people work around 60 hours a week for about half of the minimum wage and often without a day off or holidays. Business owners get away with this because people need the work and because there are ways of covering up what they are doing. Please pray for more employment for Concepcion and that the government will find a way to put a system in place where this type of injustice can't and won't happen.

Leaders

Due to the above situation we have recently lost some of our leaders at least temporarily, either because they have moved away to look for work, or because they have had to withdraw from their ministry due to their working hours. This always leaves a gap. On the positive side a lot of the young people are really growing spiritually and are full of enthusiasm to serve. Most of them started off at the Children's Clubs and it fills us with joy to see their commitment to the Lord and to others. Please pray for them and for us as we teach them, lead them and walk with them.

Many of them receive a form of persecution at home for the life they are choosing but we try to encourage them and more importantly God's Word is encouraging them. They are also praying for and encouraging their own families. The mum of some of the young people came to the Bible Study in Villa Alta. She said after school her son went to her work and said 'Are you going to the Bible Study tonight mum?' When she went home the first words of her daughter were the same. Her other son then came in and said 'Are you ready? We'll go together.'

Next year

In May 2014 Bishop Andres will retire as pastor of the church. Please pray that God will guide the church about its future and that there will be the right people to lead it and also that we will all work together in unity.

Thank you so much for your prayers. I have been reading the verses of 1 John 2:8 which is such a lovely verse and passage -**'the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.'**

Thank you for all your support and God Bless.

Claire