

Prayer update: Chris and Alison Hawksbee in Paraguay

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Dear Friends

Hawksbee Prayer letter for July 2016.

We are now in our winter period, and we have had frosts in some areas, but not much. We usually have our dry period at this time, yet we have had showers that can still complicate our travels. At the beginning of the year we had quite a bit of flooding, which meant we weren't able to get into the Makxlawaiya (pronounced Makthlawaiya) to do the Bible studies with them, so we were limited to La Patria and El Estribo. But in these Communities new deacons and pastoral helpers were ordained and authorized to exercise these roles. This has motivated the local churches in both these Communities.

Still to come for this year, after our Diocesan synod in August, will be interviews for candidates to ordain as presbyters in Makxlawaiya (1) and La patria (3-4), there are still more workers for pastoral assistants and deacons to interview and decide, in all three Communities. A community or settlement, consists of various internal villages. El Estribo has 10 villages and 7 churches, La Patria has 14 villages and 10 churches, Makxlawaiya has 3 villages and 2 churches. The main church in Makxlawaiya celebrated its 110th anniversary on the 3rd of July.

In April we had the launching of the complete bible in Enxet Sur (i.e. Southern Enxet dialect). Before, they only had the New Testament. Tim Curtis and his team of three Enxet translators had been working on the translation of the Old Testament for many years. They also revised the New Testament and brought out the whole bible. Tim has started joining us on our Bible study visits, mainly where there are Enxet speakers. This has been encouraging and helpful, in order to get the language and terminology correct. It is encouraging how they compare the Enxet and the Guarani translations, how it enriches and deepens our understanding of what scripture is teaching us.

I have been greatly encouraged with our visits doing Bible studies along with my colleagues Pastor Agustin Maidana and also Pastor Victor Gonzalez. Victor is the

pastor of the Paraguayan church in Rio Verde. We share a house in Rio Verde when we are up there and enjoy fellowship together. Tim also lives in Rio Verde and has started coming over to enjoy sharing and praying together. I haven't been the main bible teacher, but probably the facilitator and organizer.

I am still involved with the village leaders in presenting their project requests to the Government agencies, namely Tenondera (which is a start-up fund for families to work their way into a production system with a view to getting out of poverty). It is still a struggle to get them to take a long term look of what they need to do to climb out of poverty. It seems like it is a very difficult process and they still prefer to hunt and gather from whatever *institution* is around with something on offer. Please pray that the church leaders can take this seriously and be instigators for change and development and work together with the political village leaders.

This month I intend to start purchasing the hives and equipment to start up a small beekeeping project in La Patria. Please pray that the interested parties will form their groups of five from the members of their villages as the start-up groups. We have enough money to start with twenty groups of five (100 hives), when these groups pay back the cost of their hives we can proceed with more groups until we get through all those on the list.

Please pray for us for the work we are due to undertake in the village of Laguna Carpincho, to build a chapel there with the volunteers from Mission Paraguay of Northern Ireland. The road conditions have just improved sufficiently, so I have been able to get the metal framework and roof, as well as the constructors, up to the site in readiness for the volunteers who arrive on 30th of July.

Alison continues to teach at San Andres and would appreciate prayers for her role there, teaching science to middle school.

We are both involved in St Andrew's Chapel, with leading and preaching at services on Sunday morning.

With our greetings and love,

Chris and Alison.

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