

Paraguay Prayer Calendar March & April 2012



Churches praying together World Day of Prayer 2012



St Andrews Chapel

Week Thurs 1 – Weds 7 Mar – Thanking God the Father

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

The Cathedral congregation are encouraged that **new people** are taking part in the church and ask for prayer for these people.

The Annexe school are excited to see building work taking shape as a **new computer room**. Please pray for the older Annexe pupils on their camp on the 8th and 9th March.

Miriam Greco thanks God for the **recent** holiday times enabling many to regain strength and renew energies.

Chris Hawksbee notes: 'we have been **blessed by good rains** in the Chaco. It is refreshing to see plenty of water in the reservoirs and water cisterns, lush vegetation and the family allotments prospering. At times it has been a bit hot for the watermelons; they can get scorched on the vines. People really enjoy a good watermelon.' Please pray for those who have dengue fever, rates increase after abundant rain.

Ed and Mari Brice give thanks for **Raquel** who is receiving training in preparation for working with the children of St Mathew's church on Sunday mornings and for the commitment of the **ministry team** from Asuncion which is working alongside the church in Rio Verde.

We thank the Lord that Pastor Agustin and Teresa Maidana have **purchased land** in Aregua so that they can build a small house for their retirement.

FEISA early years' teacher training college thank the Lord for his provision for 2011 and for enabling us to start this new year. A good number of students have started the 3 year diploma and 10 students have enrolled on the degree course.

Caroline Gilmour W is especially grateful to God for a refreshing time in the UK. Meeting kind and generous church people and contact with others who are hoping to visit Paraguay as volunteers or for the English chapel centenary have made her **2 month stay inspiring**.

Gwen Carlisle and Mags Southern give thanks for a **good start to the school year**. 'We had a good opening service in the Cathedral for the staff before term started and a good time learning together. Parents meetings have gone well so far and Pastor Ronnie has spoken at most of them. After one meeting a new parent told the head of area how much he appreciated the spiritual talk, something he had not heard much of lately.'

Week Thurs 8 – Weds 14 Mar – A new way to relate: love one another

'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' John 13:34,35

As Jesus drew near to the cross He taught his disciples about new way to live. His mission includes building communities of disciples who demonstrate His love and so the community keeps on growing.

Please pray for **Linn Tedman** who has been unwell and spent a week in hospital with diverticulitis. She needs to have surgery. Please pray for Linn that she would continue to know God's peace and be given wisdom in all her decisions, apart from the surgery she is also preparing to retire and return to England.

Miriam Greco from the Cathedral asks us to pray 'for all members of the Cathedral congregations that we would be able to understand **God's timing** in our lives and in the church. And that as we reflect over the apparent much sowing and little harvesting may we remember that The Lord of Hosts is with us.

Pray for unity across the denominations and groups which are in Paraguay, and for the **World Day of Prayer** committee which meets on Monday 12th to evaluate last week's service praying for Malaysia. May the members of the group continue to show Christian love to each other and encourage unity.

Ed & Mari Brice ask us to pray:

- giving thanks for Jazmin who continues in her commitment to the indigenous children in the Chaco
- for good working relationships and coordination between Raquel, Jazmin and Mari as they train and prepare materials for children's work
- for this week's Bible Encounter 'Servant Leadership' in Rio Verde, that the pastors and leaders will be united and hungry for God's word and wisdom
- for Ed as he seeks to develop indigenous leaders
- for wisdom in changing the organisation of Bible studies in the Chaco

Chris Hawksbee asks us to pray for **development projects in the Chaco**. He shares with us:

- The cattle projects are going well, there is loads of water and grass for the livestock. Three communities had cows calving down and so now there is some milk. At times, we have had problems with pumas killing goats. Please pray for the continued success of this project.
- The Indian communities have most of their land covered with bush or forest and all of the ranches around them have cleared their land for pasture. We encourage the Indians to practice silvo-pastoral grazing, which is built into the overall strategy of these livestock projects. They have just had the vets come in to do the foot and mouth vaccination.
- More communities are beginning to see their neighbours' results as they get together and organize themselves on a community basis to apply for projects from different organizations.

'Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another. Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own. The question therefore is not 'How can we make community?' but 'How can we develop and nurture giving hearts?' Jean Vanier (founder of the L'Arche Communities)

Week Thurs 15 – Weds 21 Mar –A new way to relate: put up with each other

Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you. Col 3:13

We pray for the **leaders of the Anglican Church in Paraguay** that the Lord would teach new ways to relate and that Jesus would be at the centre of our relating. We pray for Peter & Sally Bartlett & Andrés & Estela Rodríguez; Agustín & Teresa Maidana, Ed & Marie Brice, Juan & Alicia Sosa, Lucio & Priscilla Romero, Luis & Regina Echeverría, Mario & Rosa Caballero, Robert & Cristina Fernández, Elvio & Lorenza Cabañas, Cefe & Ana Romero, Agripino & Nilda Cerro, Ronald & Nicky Irene, Mario & Agustina Recalde, Niño Pepe & Feliciano Agüero, Romualdo & Yrna Rojas, Donald & Caroline Brooks and Lucho & Estela Robles. May they be patient and forgiving one with another, just as Christ has forgiven them. Amen.

Sharon McCririe ask us to pray for men who have had addiction problems and who have turned to Christ that the light of Christ would shine brightly in them and that they would be able to resist the temptations of the kingdom of this world. Please pray that Lucio, Beto and Fernando would find work.

We pray for Ronald & Nicky Irene and Miriam and Miguel Greco leading Bible studies for **EMA** Marriage Encounter couples, that the word of God would bring changes and new life. Please pray for EMA's preparations for the next Encounter in May and for the couples that the Lord is calling to take part.

The Puerta continues to pray for the a woman prepared by God to serve as a care giver in the Puerta to work with Marcia. We also pray for the young girls that Christ's healing and new life would flourish in them.

Please pray for the team from St Marks Haydock, Amanda (Curate), Mark (Youth Pastor), Joe (older youth, 18), Richard (Mission Team), Sue Hodgetts (visuals) and Sandie Edwards (pastoral care and hospitality co-ordinator), who will be visiting Paraguay in April leading **workshops on discipleship**. They are currently preparing material and meeting regularly to pray for the churches in Paraguay.

We pray for the **Esperanza Foster** home for Sebastian, Johnny and Maria, thanking the Lord that he watches over these young lives with care and is working things to give them a future with hope and well-being. We pray for Teresa and Aunt Juana for wisdom in the running of the home and especially for Juana in her responsibility to combine love and discipline for these little ones.

Week Thurs 22 – Weds 28 Mar – A new way of relating: teach and instruct each other

Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Col 3:16

On 22nd we remember the World Day for Water. Please pray that this year Paraguay would continue to be blessed with **rain** and in your prayers remember other parts of the world where water is in shortage.

Pastor Agustin at the Cathedral asks us to pray for:

- **home groups** which meet in different neighbourhoods: Las Mercedes, Villa Mora, Seminario, San Lorenzo and Manora, may these groups be groups which make disciples and reproduce leaders
- wisdom in the restarting of the **Saturday children's club**
- for the **church council** as they meet to seek God's way forward

FEISA please pray for:

- the new students on the diploma course and the degree course
- the donations needed to cover our 2012 budget.
- the possibility of starting an exciting new project offering a Specialisation Course in Early Years Education, to trained teachers, who are working as infant teachers but who have not received specific training in that area

Pray for Tim, Asuncion and Juan as they continue work on the **translation of the Old Testament**. May the message of the books that they are translating fill their lives at a personal level and may they be given the ability to instruct others in the Word.

The Zeballos Cue **Pepe School** (nursery and kindergarten) is starting up again this year after a year's break. Gloria, the teacher had a baby a year and a bit ago, so she took a year off. There has been a strong demand for it to reopen by families in the neighbourhood. Let us pray for Gloria and her helpers who work without salary in this valuable work. Let us pray also for Pastor Luis and the congregation that they can take advantage of the doors this school opens into local families.

Lord Jesus, we pray for **teachers** and for St Andrews College director, **Gwen Carlisle**, deputy **Mags Southern**, Annexe School Head, **Victor Santa Cruz**, and consultant **Nelson Aguilera** and heads of departments as they lead. We pray for all Anglican Christian staff especially remembering: **Alison H, Sam, & Pat**, and St Andrews staff: **Caroline B, Linn T, Miriam G, Miguel G, Hannah T, Nicky I, Raquel G, Kim H, Matthew H, Regina E, Rita C, Ryan M, Neill B, Miriam G, Regina E, Donald B**, and chaplain **Ronald Irene**. We pray that each one would let Christ's message fully fill their lives so that they would be able to teach and instruct to the glory of God. Amen.

Week Thurs 29 Mar – Weds 4 April – A new way of relating: serve one another

My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don't use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. Gal 5:13

With thankful hearts we pray for **Claire Holmes** who has been commissioned by the church in Ireland to return to Concepcion. Claire will be involved in church leadership and in mentoring other leaders. Please pray for Claire as she prepares to travel in July.

We thank the Lord for the ministry of **Pastor Luis Echeverria** and pray that he will be able to complete his thesis this year and that his studies would outwork practically in his leadership in the Redeemer church. We pray that Luis would be given vision, understanding and stamina in these months and that the Lord would bless his servant heart. At the moment the church is focusing on spiritual growth and we join with them in praying for greater growth and for new life for the music group.

We pray for Bishop Ken Clarke as he prepares to become **SAMS Ireland chairman**. We thank God for his servant's willingness to take on this responsibility and pray that the advance of the Gospel in South America would be further promoted through Bishop Ken's leadership.

We pray that the **marriages** of our church members and leaders would be made stronger and more vibrant as each partner takes the opportunities given to serve each other. We remember before God

- **Yoryi & Yasmin** (leaders of EJE) as they get married this Saturday, that their marriage would be glorious witness to God's love and purposes in marriage
- those who are considering getting married or preparing for marriage that they will be guided by God
- those who have recently married that they would follow biblical patterns of marriage and set a great foundation for their future
- those who are going through tough times in their marriage that they would fix their eyes on Jesus
- those who have recently lost their spouse that they would be comforted

We pray for **mission partners in Paraguay** Beryl Baker, Peter & Sally Bartlett, Ed & Mari Brice, Gwen Carlisle, Tim Curtis, Caroline Gilmour White, Chris & Alison Hawksbee, Matthew and Kim (with Sam & Ben) Hickmott, Ronald & Nicky Irene (with Natasha, Tamara, Daniel and Samuel), Sharon McCririe, Mags Southern, Hannah Taylor and Linn Tedman, thanking God that they enjoyed a refreshing summer break. May each one use the freedom that they have in Jesus to serve the church in Paraguay and to serve each other in love.

St Andrews Chapel has resumed Sunday services and encouraging numbers of people both older and younger have attended. Please pray for Sally Bartlett as she coordinates the preaching / leading services rota. The chapel enjoys a good variety of preachers but service leaders are in shorter supply. Please pray for those preparing for confirmation.

Week Thurs 5 – Weds 11 April – Holy Week: forgive one another

Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ. Eph 4:32

David Orritt, heading up **Mission Paraguay**, asks us to thank:

- for the Lord's generous provision in donations received or promised which will enable all the projects planned for this year to be completed
- that the Lord has once again guided people with the necessary skills and experience to volunteer to visit Paraguay during July and August to assist the mission of the Anglican Church.

Please pray for **Bishop Andres & Estela** at St Paul' Concepcion for:

- Andres as he mentors younger leaders
- provision of an adequate vehicle
- for the Holy Spirit to move in power bringing freedom and knowledge of the Father and the Son
- wisdom in difficult pastoral situations

Lord Jesus, we thank you for your great example of forgiveness on the cross, when you were in a situation of immense pressure. We thank you that you are the Beginning and the End, your instruction to forgive transcends every culture so we pray that in our diverse cultures we would encounter in You what it means to forgive. We pray for churches Paraguay that in every context your followers would learn to forgive. In situations where we struggle to deal with conflicts grant us hearts that are hungry to learn your ways. Amen.

We pray for the pastors and deacons in the Chaco churches that they would model forgiveness and be given opportunities to encourage others to forgive:

- Makxawáya: **Juan & Romualdo**
- El Estribo: **Lucio & Mario**
- Sombrero Piri: **Elvio Cabañas**

- La Patria: **Robert, Niño Pepe, Agripino & Mario**

We pray for Paraguay's national **Forgiveness** campaign that many, both young and old will learn to forgive and so be enabled to move forward in their walk with the Lord and encounter well-being: *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.* Proverbs 4:23

We pray for **church communities** where there have been bad attitudes, hurtful words and unkind actions which have caused pain to those who are part of the church, and have excluded those who hoped to belong. Pour out on your church a spirit of repentance. Help your followers to take practical steps to forgive those who have caused offense, and teach us to love as you have loved us. Amen.

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you to share his love as He told me to* Carol Owens

Week Thurs 12 – Weds 18 April – A new way of relating: carry each other's burdens

You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand. Gal 6:2

We pray for the St Marks Haydock team arriving in Asuncion on the 18th and leaving on the 30th, for safety in all their travelling, for the Gospel to cross cultural differences and for the St John churches, Cathedral churches and the team itself to learn and **grow in making disciples**. Amen.

We thank the Lord for Pastor Agustin Maidana's, and the team from the St John churches whose ministry of offering a helping hand to churches in the Chaco is appreciated and we pray that each one would be given wisdom and discernment as they **encourage** believers and witness to those who are not yet in the Kingdom. Amen.

The Government has community housing projects in several of the Chaco communities. 2 roomed houses with a corridor in the middle are free to the families. Ladies in the communities have been helping to shift the building materials to their new home site. We pray for **help which empowers** to be given in a manner which fosters development and rather than dependency.

We thank the Lord for the **FEISA toy library** and for Noemi and Myriam's commitment to helping children have opportunities to play, dream, develop and encounter Jesus' love. We pray for the children who attend from often very disadvantaged backgrounds that Jesus' would multiply in their lives this investment of love and care. Amen.

Sally Bartlett and Caroline Gilmour White thank the Lord for his guidance through advice offered regarding the **Anglican sewing groups** and for the development of markets. They ask us to pray for creativity in moving forward, for new skills to be taught, for tact in dealing with quality control, and for the Lord's continued guidance regarding possible projects. Let us pray that each group of ladies would be strengthened as they share burdens together and strive to work in harmony, and that skills learned will be shared with others.

In this time of **waiting for Pentecost**, in our spiritual journey we pray for each other and for the Church in Paraguay that there would be great obedience to Jesus' instructions, and an increasing expectancy to hear from Jesus, be engaged with his mission and be his witnesses. Amen.

*He said: 'Freely, freely, you have received, freely, freely give
Go in my name and because you believe others will know that I live* Carol Owens

Week Thurs 19 – Weds 25 April - A new way of relating: talking to each other

And Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed in homage and kissed him; and each asked the other of his welfare and they came into the tent. Exodus 18:7

Let us pray for the members of the St Johns group of churches that in all their dreams, projects and challenges they would be sensitive to each other's' needs and able to **communicate effectively** and honour each other.

Charlie Mendez (in his 2nd year of theological studies in Chile), we thank God for all that Charlie learnt last year and that he passed all his exams. We thank God for his recent engagement to Raquel Greco and pray that

the Lord will cover them with his love and protection and that they would be able to communicate effectively in spite of being in two different countries. We pray that the Lord will help Charlie in his studies. Amen.

Please pray for **Donald & Caroline Brooks:**

- expecting the arrival of baby Maya, that she would arrive safely
- for good health for Caroline
- big brother Tommy (2 and a half) as he adapts to a baby sister
- Donald in his varied responsibilities, for wisdom, good health and strength

Pastor Lucho Robles ask us to pray:

- thanking God for his faithfulness in the development of new leaders, faithful men and women in St Johns, Mirador and King of kings
- thanking God for the feeding programme in King of kings for children from disadvantaged backgrounds
- thanking God for the resources from Mission Paraguay
- thanking God for the commitment of the musicians in the churches
- for a strengthening of the ministry to children in Mirador & St Johns
- for the team who visit Rio Verde in the Chaco, Victor, Antonio, Solomon and Eligio bringing the Gospel to those who do not yet know God

Let us pray for the **church in Luque:**

- for Donald and the church council, that they would know God's plans for the church
- for Esteban Romero, his wife Iris & son Manu, living in the pastoral house and leading the youth group
- for spiritual fruit in the lives of the young people
- for new preachers

Let us pray for **church councils:**

- open and honest communication
- to be motivated by a desire to do God's will and see His Kingdom come on earth
- good relationships between council members and pastors
- times of waiting on God

*All power is given in Jesus' name in earth and heaven, in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you to share His power as He told me to Carol Owens*

Week Thurs 26 – Mon 30 April - Wait for the promise

The church is supposed to be the city that sits on a hill whose light cannot be hidden. The church is supposed to be the salt in the earth that brings seasoning and preservation to the whole community. The church is supposed to be the wellspring of hope and help and healing in a sinful world, but that does not seem to be the case...the church needs some power. Marvin Mickle, Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio

During this time between Easter and Pentecost please pray for:

- the Cathedral congregations during this time of seeking new ways to be church in unity
- the San Lorenzo children's club
- the Mission Paraguay orientation meeting to be held on 28th April for volunteers from England
- Ronald Irene that he will have wisdom in balancing his church responsibilities with his role as school chaplain
- Beryl Baker, that the Lord will help her to know His plans for her future
- your own church and its mission

Jesus commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father... 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:4-8

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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