

## Paraguay Prayer Calendar November and December 2011



Worshipping Jesus



Opening of the Redeemer Church Youth Room

### Week Tues 1 – Mon 7 Nov Rejoice!

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:4 - 6*

- **Pastor Lucio** and his family thank the Lord for the recent recovery of his son from a serious respiratory illness.
- Praise God for the faith of the **6 girls** at La Puerta who were baptized on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Teresa Maidana and Penny Metcalfe thank the Lord for the renting of new premises for the **Esperanza Foster Home** and work completed there to make it ready for the children to move. Give thanks for all those who helped in last week's move and for the St Andrews College 9<sup>th</sup> Grade pupils who helped to get the house ready too. They ask us to pray that Holy Spirit would be felt strongly there and especially that the children would have the security they need there.
- The congregation in **Rio Verde** give thanks for the encouragement of visiting preachers from Asunción and increased church attendance.
- EMA gives thanks for the couples who took part in the last **Marriage Encounter** weekend and for the encouragement of the recent growth group meetings.
- Linn Tedman asks us to give thanks for **St Andrews School staff retreat**: The weather was perfect. Bishop Greg Venables came to teach us. He was inspiring and relaxed. That rubbed off onto us all. We came away spiritually refreshed and challenged, ready for the weeks ahead.
- Praise the Lord that the **additional accommodation** has been completed at the church at Zeballos Cue and pray that it will be used wisely to be a centre for support and outreach to the local young people and drawing them into a closer relationship with Jesus.

*Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones, and praise His holy name. Psalm 97:12*

### Week Tues 8 – Mon 14 Nov Receiving God's Word

*Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1: 19- 21*

The Provincial Executive Committee is meeting in Asuncion and an extraordinary **Provincial Synod** has been convened to consider the ordination of women to the priesthood. Pray that the Bishops of the Province of the Southern Cone would be given wisdom and that each delegate would listen with a humble heart to others with distinct points of view. Pray for our sister Dioceses in the varied challenges that they face, and give thanks for their witness to the risen Lord Jesus and his saving power.

Caroline Gilmour White: we grateful for the prayers for the **St Andrews Chapel Centenary** (Sep 2012) which have resulted in a flood of resources, ideas and help for the centenary project. It is causing quite a buzz in the neighbourhood. The next needed prayer is that we would meet the December deadline for handing over artwork to the cinematographer.

Please pray for **President Lugo & the Paraguayan government** that they would act in wise ways regarding the current security situation in the north of the country to stabilize. Pray that God's word would be planted in their hearts. Pray that leaders of the EPP terrorist group would be brought to justice.

Thank you for your prayers for **Fermina** who has cancer. Nurse Beryl Baker is visiting Fermina shares that: Fermina is up and about but can't do very much due to her very large abdomen - the cancer is spreading quickly. She is in a hospice which is attached to the San Rafael Roman Catholic Church. We pray for Fermina and her wider family for God's strength and peace in these days.

Sharon McCririe asks us to pray for **La Puerta** ministry to young girls with addictions. We pray for creative ideas for the girls making things to sell and people to buy them to fund the costs. We pray that the Lord would meet all the girl's needs. Other needs include women called to take the girls to doctor's appointments, teach classes, talk with them and accompany them on the street to sell. We pray that the girls will get rid of the stuff in their lives that keeps them far from the Lord, and that his Word would be planted in their hearts.

We pray for **Ed & Mari Brice** on home leave in the UK asking that in the midst of a busy schedule they would find time to rest, relax and receive God's word for their lives and ministry.

You might like to pray for yourself and believers in Paraguay that a fresh commitment to God would result in believers creating a regular, non-negotiable place in daily schedules that is solely for the purpose of being alone and still before God. That in stillness we would wait to hear from God, and let his Word be planted in our hearts.

*I wait for the LORD; I wait, and put my hope in His word. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning - more than watchmen for the morning. Psalm 130:5, 6*

### **Week Tues 15 – Mon 21 Nov God's students**

*Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live. The Scriptures train God's servants to do all kinds of good deeds. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17*

The **Annexe School** pupils have been busy writing poetry this year. They have just launched a book of their work. Lord Jesus we pray that each student in the Annexe School that they would learn to walk in the paths of the Lord. We pray especially for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students as they complete their time in the Annexe and move on, that the Lord's words would help them in the challenges they face. Bless them Lord with purpose and direction. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we pray for **teachers** and 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 We pray for all Anglican Christian staff especially remembering: **Alison H, Sam, & Pat**, and St Andrews staff: **Babs O, Carol M, 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 strength and wisdom in the last weeks before the holidays.

Anglican **Marriage Encounter** closes this year's activities on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. with the end of year dinner, giving thanks for the Father's healing touch on many marriages. Please pray that the couples will learn to study God's word together as couples and in groups.

Pastor Ronny and Pastor Agustín ask us to pray for **St Andrews Cathedral**. They give thanks for gradual renewal and the agreeable atmosphere on Sunday mornings. Thank the Lord for the Bible study groups in Las Mercedes and San Lorenzo and the new men's group in Dr Jorge's home. Pray for Agustín for wisdom and grace as he teaches God's word. Pray too for the work of the Holy Spirit that many who do not yet follow Jesus will give their lives to him.

Miriam Greco and Sally Bartlett thank the Lord for the **Mums' Bible study group** and ask us to pray for Gloria, Carolina, Risa, Claudia, Rosa and Patricia that the Word of God would take root and that each one would be kept safe and seek the Lord.

**St Andrews School** asks us pray for the preparations for all the end of year events and services that the Christian message will be clearly presented. We pray for open hearts of those present to receive God's word, and that the message would result in faith in Jesus, the fruit of godly living and all kinds of good deeds.

**FEISA** teacher training college asks us to pray:

- praise God for lessons learnt by the 3rd Year students in the Chaco. Pray for them as they do their final teaching practices and later prepare to take up their teaching posts in Feb. 2012.
- pray for the 2nd and 3rd Year students working as they take their final exams.
- praise God for our decreasing dependence on overseas financial support and continue to pray for the almost £20,000 needed for 2012 and for inspired ways of attracting that money both internationally and locally.
- praise God for administrator Ruth's dedication and for her family. Pray for her facing all the pressures of end of year documentation.

*Yes, LORD, we wait for You in the path of Your judgments. Our desire is for Your name and renown. I long for You in the night; yes, my spirit within me diligently seeks You, for when Your judgments are in the land, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Isaiah 26:8, 9*

## **Week Tues 22 –Mon 28 Nov Praying for each other**

*Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy Name*

Loving heavenly Father, we thank you because you have called us to be part of your family and live in harmony. We thank you for the Mirador outreach, for their children, young people and the ladies who faithfully pray and fast. We pray for **St John's** church, for Pastor Lucho and Estela, the church council and the church members that unity would grow. We pray that the Father's name would be honoured as the church would turn its back on gossip and ungodly ways of speaking. Amen.

*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*

Loving heavenly Father, we thank you for the **Chaco churches** and pray for their pastors and deacons, Lucio, Elvio, Juan, Ed, Mario C, Robert, Mario R, Agripino, Niño Pepe and Romualdo. We ask that they would be guided by your loving hand and be enabled to usher in your kingdom in their communities. We pray for church councils that their members would act according to Kingdom principles. Amen.

*Give us this day our daily bread*

Eternal heavenly Father, we thank you for much needed rain and pray that you would send more rain. We pray for the church in Sombrero Piri that the believers would know you to be **Jehovah Jireh, who provides**. We pray that new opportunities for employment would open up and we pray especially for those who have been called by You to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus.

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

God of Forgiveness, we thank you for biblical teaching on the subject of forgiveness and we pray for Pastor Luis and his wife Regina ask us to pray for the Redeemer Church, Zeballos Cue. On Wednesday evenings 2 groups are studying **40 Days to Turn Your Heart Around**, a course which teaches people to forgive. We pray that *it will be known by many brothers and sisters that through Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is announced (Acts 13:38)*.

Take a few moments to reflect and if you sense that in any of your relationships lack of forgiveness might be a problem ask God for his help in this. Receiving and extending **forgiveness** is a Biblical mandate and benefits us in often unexpected ways.

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*

Father God, our protector, we thank you for **new groups** meeting to worship you and study the Bible. We pray for protection on the San Francisco group and the group which is meeting with pastor Lucho R in Villa Hayes. We also pray for Bishop Andrés and Estela that you would continue to lead them in difficult pastoral situations and that you would protect your people in Concepcion. Amen.

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

For **Esperanza Foster** home, together we pray for:

- Antonio and his special needs – he has now gone to live with a foster family in Encarnacion
- Barbara and Victor going to a new adoptive couple from St Andrews Chapel
- Juani who is working in the home as an auntie

Together we give thanks for the perseverance of all the team involved in organising Esperanza, in particular Juana, Teresa and Ana Maria. May they have continued vision and strength. We pray for much fruit from their efforts to fundraise. Amen.

*The intense prayer of the righteous is very powerful. James 5:15, 16*

## **Week Tues 29 Nov – Mon 5 Dec Advent**

*Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real. 1 Timothy 6:17 - 19*

Advent is traditionally a time of reflection and fasting and so we take time to reflect on our priorities and pray that the church in Paraguay would establish **godly priorities**.

Lord God, on 1st December, **Aids Day**, we pray for all families who are HIV positive and are coping with serious long term illness as a result, and especially we remember the carers of AIDS patients that they will be give wisdom and strength. We remember R and his family asking that he and his wife would be reconciled.

Miguel & Miriam Greco ask us to thank God for his faithfulness, protection and provision each day, and they ask us to pray for the **Anglican Church in Paraguay**. We thank the Lord for his mercy and grace for his church, *for it is by Jehovah's kindnesses that we are not destroyed, because His mercies never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.* (Lament 3:22, 23). We ask the Lord to break down the strongholds which prevent the work of the Holy Spirit in the church, praying that every member would be guided by the Holy Spirit, would be patient to see God's ways unfold and would grow in a desire to give glory to God and honour his name. Amen.

David Orritt of **Mission Paraguay** asks us to pray:

- thanking God for the progress with the adobe homes being built in the Chaco and funded through the generosity of Mission Paraguay supporters in UK and Ireland. 5 homes have now been completed since July and a further 5 are underway.
- thanking God for the way in which He worked in the lives of the Mission Paraguay volunteers who visited this year and praise Him for the people who have already shown interest in joining a Mission Paraguay group in 2012. We thank God that each year He selects people with appropriate experience and skills to work with the church in varying situations in Asunción, Concepción and the Chaco.

**Godly priorities:** please pray for believers in Paraguay that we would set our hope on God and be willing to be instructed in his ways. As you pray perhaps you might like to consider making a commitment to God yourself to refrain from spending inappropriate amounts of time thinking about things that are unimportant.

Ronald Irene and Donald Brooks ask us to pray for St Andrews 7pm youth congregation, giving thanks to the Lord for the young people and their energy and desire to work for the Lord. We pray too Ronald and Donald would be given wisdom in leading this congregation. We pray for the current sermon series on James' letter that the teaching would be put into practice and not simply become head knowledge.

Please pray for Nelson & Carmen Franco and their family, the caretakers of the **Diocesan centre, Rio Verde**, asking for physical and spiritual protection.

## **Week Thurs 6 – Mon 12 Dec Announcing the Good News**

*But how can they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How welcome are the feet of those who announce the gospel of good things! Romans 10:14, 15*

**St Paul's**, Concepcion give thanks children's clubs and the opportunities for preaching the Good News. We pray to the Father for this ministry that the leaders will be encouraged and that many children will believe in Jesus and chose to follow him as Saviour and Lord. We also pray for wisdom for Bishop Andrés and Estela in their many pastoral responsibilities. We also pray that they would continue to preach the Good News with boldness in the communities around Concepcion.

The church in **Santa Fe** gives thanks for the 200 young people who attended evangelistic events at the end of October and pray that this would bear much fruit in the future.

The church in **Luque** gives thanks for the youth group members who now number about 20. We pray for youth leader Esteban Romero that the Lord will prosper this ministry and enable Esteban to help the young people to reach out and evangelise their families and friends.

**St Andrews Chapel** give thanks for all those who attend and visit this community, especially the young and pray that as the gospel is preached many would turn to Christ.

**St John's**, Roque Alonso is praying for healing and restoration in families. Let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named* (Eph 3:15) asking him heal and bless the families of Roque Alonso. We especially remember families where members have addiction problems.

#### **Viva Children's Club:**

- Teresa & Agustín Maidana thank God for another year of his faithful provision of resources for the running of the club's 7<sup>th</sup> year
- Please pray for wisdom about how to move forward. Agustín and Teresa would like to have a break from running the club but at the moment there is no one to take over. Please pray that the Lord would call people with the necessary gifts and heart for the children from the Chacarita.

We give thanks for all that **Babs Owen** has contributed to the life of St Andrews School and the Anglican Church in Asuncion. We pray that God will open the right doors for Babs as she returns to teaching in the UK and family responsibilities and that she will be given many opportunities to teach and preach the Good News. We pray that the many seeds of faith that she has sown in Paraguay will bear fruit.

*But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise, and healing will be on His wings.* Mal 4:2

#### **Week Tues 13 – Mon 19 Dec Transparent Living**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts, and see if any wicked way is in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.* Psalm 139:24

Living transparently means that we realise that we can't hide anything from God. To be transparent means living integrated lives which are the same in public as in private. Take a few moments to think about what that might mean in your life. Father, thank you for the example of Jesus, who lived a transparent life here on earth.

We pray for the **leaders of the Anglican Church in Paraguay** that they will opt to live transparent lives. 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 Aguero & Romualdo & Yrna Rojas, Donald & Caroline Brooks and Lucho & Estela Robles.

Please pray for **Charlie Mendez**, at the end of his first year of theological studies in Chile, that his relationship with the Lord, his family, friends and the church would be strengthened during this time of vacation.

We thank the Lord for all the young people who took part in the last **EJE Youth Encounter**, and pray for Ronald, Donald, David, Guille, Clari, Yoryi, Yasmi, Sofi, Raquel, Ivo and Dani, as they establish good relationships with the young people. We pray for the young people who have recently started coming along to 7pm that they would respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him.

We pray for nurse **Beryl Baker** that the Lord would keep her safe and help her as she balances a busy schedule with her physical needs.

We pray for the leaders of **Springtime**, a recently formed Chaco community, for wisdom and grace.

Let's pray for the **Enxet Bible Translation Team**, headed up by Tim Curtis, giving thanks for:

- the final checks of Proverbs and Zechariah
  - the help of CMS, many churches and individuals in a variety of countries
  - the collaboration of Tito La Haye of the United Bible Societies, as consultant and advisor
- praying for:
- the long term financial planning for 2012 – 2015, especially for the costs which will be incurred at the closure of the project
  - for good contacts amongst the Enxet speaking youth who help in the final checking stages

*If we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.* 1 John 1:9

## **Week Tues 20 – Mon 26 Dec Kneel and Worship**

*When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him.* Matt 2:11 Worship is a life lived in communion and humble conversation with God. It involves the engagement of one's entire being with the greatness of the God Who Is. It involves changing priorities.

This week we pray for the many **indigenous people** in the Chaco who will be returning to their communities to spend Christmas with their families. We pray that this week would be a time of special blessing, that family ties would be strengthened and that many would attend church services and worship the new born King.

We remember in prayer during the holiday period, the **Enxet Bible translators**:

- Tim Curtis
- Asuncion Rojas and his wife Cipriana and sons Valentin & Albertin
- Juan Martinez and his wife Negrita and their adopted son Jerson.

Please pray for the Chaco churches holding big **Christmas services** this week for bold proclamation of the Christmas message and that those who hear the Good News would respond. Pray for St Peters, La Leona, San Fernandez, La Paciencia, Colonia 24, St Matthews, Spring of Eternal Life, Rivers of Living Water, Rock of Peace, Encounter with God and the other smaller churches.

We pray for the **city churches** this week with a variety of Christmas and end of year services and events. May Jesus be worshipped and glorified in all the activities of this busy week.

We pray alongside **Chris & Alison Hawksbee** for:

- the cattle project in the village of Santa Fe. The funding has come according to plans and the work progressing quickly. The water reservoir for cattle watering (5000 cubic metres) has been excavated. The managing of this project, under the leadership of Esteban Galeano is going very well, and the funding agency is very pleased, as is Luis Santa Cruz who is supervising it. Thank you for your prayers of these activities and for these key people.
- rain for the Chaco communities, enabling the Moringa and Millettia trees to grow well.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all those who are far away from loved ones and those who are bereaved that the You would console them and grant them your peace. Amen.

## **Week Thurs 27 – Mon 31 Dec Time for change...**

As we grow in understanding of God, we also grow in our desire to be changed. St Paul wrote, *'Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.'* Romans 12:2. The prophet Isaiah was a man who was changed as he worshipped the Lord (Isaiah 6:1-8).

As 2011 closes take the opportunity to reflect on the year that has been. You might like to consider some of the following questions:

- Why does God want to change the way I think?
- Where have the biggest challenges of the year come from?
- What situations, relationships have been a source of joy?
- When have I grown spiritually?
- How can I allow God to change the way I think?

This week we pray for all those who have been members of the Anglican Church in Paraguay for many years as well as those who the Lord has recently added to the church, praying :

- our lives would continually be transformed by the saving, healing, miracle working power of Jesus
- the person of Jesus and his cross with its implications would be central in our worship, living and sharing of the Christian faith
- integrity in the lives of believers so that changed ways of thinking would mean changed behaviour

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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