

Linn Tedman's News May 2008

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers this month. The elections went fairly smoothly. Also although there have been one or two new cases of Yellow Fever, and several cases of dengue fever, there has not been the huge epidemic that was expected.

Adela's operation went smoothly and she returned to work a fortnight later. However, her face suddenly swelled up one morning and she had developed an infection. It was not painful as she has no nerves in that area now, but she has had to take more time at home to rest and to allow antibiotics to work.

The Country

The Presidential elections went well, with only a few incidents where different party members clashed. The result was obvious very soon after the polls closed.

Fernando Lugo, a former Catholic bishop was elected. Lugo has worked tirelessly throughout his campaign to convince people that he can bring change that will benefit the poor and which will provide employment and land and a roof over their heads. Eight months ago, he brought together unions, Indians and poor farmers into a coalition with the main opposition party to form the Patriotic Alliance for Change.

We now wait to see whether he can deliver his promises, bearing in mind that his party will not hold full power in the senate. He will need to convince members of other parties to support him if he is to succeed in passing new laws.

Lugo is left of centre politically so we expect to see changes.

In school, the day after the elections Mags brought us back to Romans 13:3. If we do what is right, obey the authorities and have God with us we need not fear for the future.

Of course there have been altercations in the Colorado Party since they lost the election. They had been in power for over 60 years, but problems between individuals within the party contributed to its downfall. Now everybody is blaming everybody else.

The Church

The churches have been busy in the absence of a new Bishop. Bishop Andrés has been travelling back and forth from Concepción, overseeing things in the diocese. It is an exhausting time for him.

The nominating committee has been busy interviewing so we await news at a Synod meeting later this month.

The School

Life in school has been busy again since the Easter break. Pupils have been getting ready for the first exams this year, which have just begun. They are being eased in fairly gently as they have a half-day off for Teachers Day and a bank holiday this week.

Senior pupils have been out to the Chaco again this month to work in our Anglican communities again. They always return with tales to tell and are enthusiastic to do more.

Teachers Day was today. The day started with a very early staff breakfast. Later the children produced their annual surprise of shows for us. There was one in both the Primary and the Secondary departments. They were both very good. Afterwards the children went home and the staff of both the main college and the Annexe school enjoyed a lovely barbecue together.

Prayer Points

1. Please pray for the nation of Paraguay. Pray for the President-elect, that he will be a man who puts God first, has honesty and integrity and who will work for the good of the people of Paraguay.
2. Please pray for Adela, that her face will heal completely with no further infections. She is such a special lady who loves the Lord.
3. Please continue to pray for the Somervell family. Chris is due back in Asuncion this month to be with the children and to start the daunting task of packing up. Pray for the Lord to go before her and for His help to do all that needs to be done. Pray for Tony to have peace of mind until he can join her and the family in June.
4. Pray for calm for the children and their parents during this exam season. Pray for the staff who have an enormous workload, setting papers, marking and report writing.

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