

Paraguay Election News from Murray & Penny Metcalfe
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Dear All

I expect some of you will have already heard about yesterday's election results here in Paraguay. Everybody is praising the calm and mature way that the voting took place with only a few isolated incidents of violence or accusations of vote rigging. The Paraguayan people have voted for change with the former Catholic Bishop, Fernando Lugo, winning by a clear 10 percent. His main election claims concern land reform and a renegotiation of the treaty with the deal with Brazil regarding the price paid to Paraguay for Hydroelectric power. It will be very interesting to see if, and how, things change for the poor.

Many thanks for your prayers. Very few people believed this result was possible and, as the outgoing President has stated, it is the first time in Paraguay's history that a new political party has come to power without bloodshed. We were semi expecting riots or a coup and had been told to stock up on food and not leave the house, so we are feeling quite relieved. Murray has gone on a camp to the Chaco this morning with some 16 year olds so I trust all is calm there too.

There are some interesting articles on BBC news online if anybody is interested - www.bbc.co.uk/news.

Best Wishes

Penny