

Update from Tony & Chris Somervell 20 February 2008

Dear Friends,

Some of you are expecting this mail to have been sent from Asuncion, Paraguay and others may be wondering what we have been doing these last weeks. We are sorry for not updating sooner, but circumstances have been such that we have a) not felt very communicative and b) had to make big decisions. Only now are we in a position to clearly say what is happening.

The bottom line? We (Tony and Chris) have been advised not to return to our work in Paraguay because of the 'burnout' we have experienced over the last year or so; we need time (maybe 2 to 3 months) to recuperate and renew strength.

We have received the generous offer of help from Juan Carlos and Silvia (our 'right hand' couple in the Marriage Encounter ministry) in this time of need. They have offered to look after Alex, Patrick and Ceci in our absence, acting as guardians in every sense. They are effectively our closest friends in Asuncion and live opposite San Andres school which is very handy.

So, Alex, Patrick and Ceci are returning to Asuncion Friday 22nd to get on with their schooling (only missed a week which is quite common for the beginning of the school year). Meanwhile, we will be taken care of by the local church here in Bedford where we have found much support and kindness from understanding folks.

Please pray for the family at this time of change and separation, especially that Alex, Patrick and Ceci adjust back well to Paraguay and we recuperate step by step.

We have informed the Auxillary Bishop, Andres and asked that local Pastors give pastoral oversight to the congregation of Cristo Salvador in our absence. Do please pray that this will happen and be effective.

On a brighter note, Alex did well in his IGCSE's and has been offered a place at a 6th Form College in Bristol, and awaits a possible offer at an excellent College south of Birmingham. He has the promise of a place to stay too, in both places, which is a real relief to us. He will be leaving Paraguay mid/late August to start September this year, 2008.

Tony's Dad (in Kendal) has improved slightly in his health since we saw him over Christmas, with daily 'meals on wheels' and more home care helping the situation.

We look forward to hearing your news when you can write.

With our love and thanks, as always.

Tony and Chris

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01234 213 276 (as from 25th Feb, until further notice)