

Bartlett's Paraguayan Post

Saturday 11th July 2009

100 day report!

Dear Friends,

Swine 'flu has arrived in Paraguay but it didn't stop last night's premier of the Hannah Montana movie at local cinemas! (See 2008 Forbes list of 100 most influential people for further details on Hannah M.) After our trip to Buenos Aires the Ministry of Health rang us to check that we didn't have the symptoms of swine 'flu. The cold weather means that colds, coughs and 'flu's of every kind are a problem in Paraguay. And winter is truly here: crackling log fires, tasty casseroles, woolly jumpers, cosy quilts and hot water bottles have temporarily replaced BBQs and patio breakfasts.

We are grateful for!

- rain, fabulous rain, and yet more rain
- our documents now handed into immigration, school sec Andrea's help was invaluable
- patience and friendship shown by those who have helped us to settle in
- our home (described by a visitor as welcoming and well organised!)
- the ministry of many co-workers in the Kingdom, especially Patrick and Rosie Butler returning to the UK and Cefe and Ana Romero, recently celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry
- the hard work and commitment of many church councils
- confirmation and reception of 27 members (Sally is one of the 27) in the Cathedral evening service, enabling this group to become a fully functioning congregation
- the enthusiasm being shown for the Diocesan Library project
- a super week in Buenos Aires, Peter speaking at a clergy retreat and Sally chilling out
- good visits to Chaco churches
- prayers whispered, spoken, shared and answered in abundance

Challenges

- Peter, well into the challenges that being bishop brings, is now also interim pastor of 3 churches
- FEISA Anglican early years teacher training college is undergoing a restructuring
- clergy retirement of clergy means that leadership development is an urgent need
- all church members to be encouraged to develop their talents and use their gifts

Different World Views



Cooking for 40 at the Bible Week



Indigenous Enxet Pastors enjoying a tea break



80 and recovering from a close encounter

How would you describe an accident in which you fell and hurt your leg? The 80 year old gentleman picture above explained to us that a whirlwind, driven by an evil spirit, knocked him to the ground breaking his leg. The Enxet like many South American tribal peoples are animistic, believing that the world is dominated by evil forces. The recent Bible Week held in the Diocesan centre in Rio Verde in the Chaco, with about 40 pastors and

pastoral assistants was an opportunity to look at a Christ-centred Biblical world view and for those present to examine their lives and experiences in the light of the Bible's teaching on the spiritual world.

The Anglican Church has an established presence in several Chaco communities (Rio Verde, El Estribo, Sombrero Pirí, Makxlawaya and La Patria) and ministers to tribal groups such as the Enxet and Sanapaná. These communities face huge challenges in today's globalised world, especially in the development of young people. Binge drinking and the breakdown of marriage relationships are current problems facing some Chaco communities. Educating children in a way that is appropriate to their culture is a challenge as is the provision of relevant teaching materials. Many women are illiterate. Recently Pastor Elvio from El Estribo has stepped down from church ministry to concentrate on his responsibilities with the Ministry of Education.

Thank you very much for your continued interest. It has been great to receive news via traditional mail, the internet, e mail, and Skype of what is going on in other parts of the world.

Yours, + Peter and Sally



St Andrews Cathedral confirmation service

If you would like to join us in praying we are currently asking God for:

- wisdom, the setting of wise priorities and continued good health
- grace, humility and good humour as we deal with situations requiring reality checks
- language study - Guaraní classes
- leadership development and training
- good practice in all areas of FEISA's responsibilities
- mission to become a greater part of the spiritual DNA of this diocese
- our families: David and Catherine expect to move house and Karen is planning a career change

Peter & Sally Bartlett, Iglesia Anglicana Paraguaya, Casilla de Correo 1124

Asunción, PARAGUAY, South America

Phone: 00595 21 224028 saritabartlett@hotmail.co.uk peterparaguay@gmail.com

Skype: pjhbartlett