

Prayer update: Chris and Alison Hawksbee in Paraguay

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Associate Mission Partners with the Church Mission Society (CMS) and the South American Mission Society (SAMS) UK & Northern Ireland.

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Dear Friends

The campaign run by the Mennonites went well in La Patria (i.e. from 7-10 September). This was a continuation of a Luis Palau campaign that was held last year in the Mennonite colonies. The people from La Patria were invited, but unable to attend because it rained and the road was closed that leads into La Patria from the asphalt road because it is an earth road.

Apart from the actual services for the campaign, a whole group of support people came to ferry people to and from the local villages in La Patria to the village of San Fernandez where the services were held. They also brought a water bowser to fill up empty water tanks so people had enough water for the 3 days they were there. They also provided food for these people to cook for themselves. Children's activities were also undertaken as students from Bible colleges helped out. Three of us from the Anglican team joined in on two of the evenings to reinforce to the people that we have come to a good working agreement with the Mennonite brethren that we can work alongside each other to strengthen the local churches and not cause division. This has been very positive. Please pray that this continues and that the other groups who are Christians can draw alongside us to work together positively.

The three Bible students from La Patria came as well with their fellow students to participate in visiting. They go to the Yelva Sanga Bible School, which is run by the Mennonites. They have since hosted pastors from various communities and they did an evaluation of the campaign. This was positive. We have done the same on our last trip into La Patria. We were not happy with the chap who did the leading of the evening events, He was hyperactive Pentecostal and it wasn't the place for this style of leadership at an evangelistic campaign. I looked around at people during the service and people were bored with it. This sort of leading has come in with some Pentecostal groups and is catching on in services and it isn't at all positive to spiritual

growth. So we brought this up in the evaluation and asked the church leaders to regulate it in the right way. We don't want to stamp on freedom, would like to see more orderly services according to scriptural guide lines (as Paul says in Corinthians), and study scripture more. We encourage them to search the scriptures over all themes.

In September, I was able to distribute another 15 hives in 4 villages. These were bought from the sale of honey. There is now a new flow of honey coming in so we hope to buy more hives from the sale of this. Pastor Agripino has been visiting the people, mainly church members to make certain they comply with their commitment of paying back their credit for the hives. Some have been quite slack and hoping to get away with not paying. We are insisting that the local churches start practicing good stewardship so they can generate an income from beekeeping and make it grow by reinvesting some of their profits. Some are doing well, but there are sluggards as well.

The Diocese has also just opened a new guesthouse in Remansito, close by Asuncion where the Indian folk can come to stay while they have business to do, or have health check -ups, etc.

The three deacons from El Estribo were made presbyters. This event was very positive and encouraging to these local congregations.

We have booked our flights to the UK, we arrive on the 7th December and we return back to Paraguay on the 23rd January. From the 19th Dec till after Christmas, we are having family time to catch up with Samuel and his family in Huddersfield. See the grand children!

So if any churches would like a visit during the rest of that time please get in contact with us so we can arrange it. Please email us. If you can let us know as soon as possible, we can book advance rail tickets getting a discount with our rail cards.

Thank you for your prayers.

Chris and Alison

Please advise distribution amendments to:

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