

Bev Richardson

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The call in action

Dear friends,

Love and greetings from a rather wet and rainy Asuncion, Paraguay. On a personal note, I am very grateful for the cooler weather and the water!

As we moved the clocks forward last weekend here in Paraguay, I reflect on all the recent changes as we enter another new season, and on all that has happened since I wrote my last letter.

As the spring season is now here the temperatures are again rising to around 30°C+ by mid-afternoon, although we've had a few lovely days in the mid-20°C with more opportunities to sit outside and relax in the pleasant weather.

A NEW FUTURE AND A NEW NORMAL

St Andrew's English Chapel

We were excited and very optimistic about the reopening of our in-chapel services and the opportunity to finally hold our special services of confirmations and ordinations. There was a lot to be grateful and thankful to God for as we met together for the first time for many months.

It was great to start with a welcome breakfast outside the chapel on the patio before we began our services to enable everyone to greet each other once more and catch up with news!

Ordination of Deacon Nico van Zyl

On Sunday 12 September we were able to have a combined worship service at the cathedral for the ordination to the diaconate of one of our chapel lay leaders. It was a personal privilege and honour for me to support Nico van Zyl and to lead alongside Archbishop Emeritus Gregory Venables and Pastor Donald Brooks during the service. The pastors of the other local Anglican churches were also present to pray and support Nico and it was a really blessed occasion for which we give God all the glory!

Mission formation training

It has been a blessing to see two of our members and confirmed chapel members step out in mission training. We are supporting and praying for Marco as he returned this week from his formation training in Europe and begins his full-time mission work in the Chaco with the Tobati community children's project, teaching musical instruments to some of the poorest in the community.

It was also a great honour to support Elena in her first module studying with the CMS Pioneer Mission Leadership Training online in late September. She will continue with online studies from Paraguay and we are thankful to God for this new opportunity that has opened as a result of the pandemic and the need to adapt training. We pray she will be just the first of many young Paraguayans hearing the call to engage in mission training through the Pioneer Mission Leadership course accessed now from around the world!



Name: Bev Richardson

Location: Paraguay

My call: To share the gospel contextually, discipling, enabling and training the next generation of Christian leaders in mission and ministry in Paraguay.

My role: I am working as a school chaplain within the school Colegio San Andres (CSA), developing the next generation of leaders in Paraguay.



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St Andrew's chapel has reopened for live services and confirmations.

Colegio San Andres (CSA) full time classes restart

Staff were fully vaccinated with Pfizer donated vaccines by the end of August, so with protocols in place we were officially allowed to open for full time classes.

Our first trips to the Surubi'i sports field about 45 mins from the school were enjoyed by primary school on international children's day and later on by secondary school students and teachers for the two retreat days at the end of our term before spring break. We had a wonderful time enjoying being back together and out in the fresh air, and the weather was particularly kind to us!

New beginnings with God leading the way...

One of the unexpected positive things that came out of the pandemic for me was the various new online networking groups I've been a part of via Zoom or other online platforms, from training groups, CMS Latin America team prayer groups, meditation groups, women's Latin American intercessory prayer groups and weekly small group Bible studies, and Christian social networking across the Latin America region. These have been a wonderful way of supporting and getting to know each other so much better.

This led me to an unexpected meeting with one Christian group in June, where I was to meet a pastor and missionary from Ecuador, Johnny. We are now in a personal relationship, and at the end of September our close friendship has led us to a decision to make a commitment to go forward as a couple, with God leading us into a new future together continuing to serve the Lord in South America. We are prayerfully discerning our next steps before God and with support from our mission and our churches. We would value your prayers for wisdom and discernment as we trust in God to reveal his will, purposes and plans, and for his timing to be together in the future.

I know that God has a perfect plan for me and also for the mission here in Paraguay, as I wait and trust in him to make the next steps clear for me.

Blessings,

Bev

Prayer points:

- For God's continued guidance and the Holy Spirit's leading in my role serving in Paraguay.
- Give thanks for God's provision in September for my second dose of the COVID-19 Sputnik vaccine, for continued good health and well-being during my recent travels to Ecuador and serving back full time in school and chapel, and for God's protection over me in Paraguay and for my children and family back in UK.
- Give thanks for God's provision and continued financial support for my mission.
- For God's wisdom and discernment for both Johnny and me as we seek God's will to be done in our personal life as a couple serving and living in South America.



Photos from top to bottom: It was an honour to support Nico van Zyl as he was ordained deacon at the cathedral; It was great to back in school and at Surubi'i together; Johnny and I are seeking God's wisdom for our future together.

GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY
Pioneer Mission Leadership Training at CMS, designed by pioneers for pioneers, equips students for transformational mission in a dynamic and supportive learning community. Find out more at pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

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