

## Prayer letter: Chris and Alison Hawksbee in Paraguay

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Supported through **South American Mission Society (SAMS), Ireland.**

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Greetings dear Friends,

Time has gone by quickly, but it has felt slow for me, as travel has been difficult and impossible on some of the earth roads I transit. For the last couple of months, we have had a lot of rain and the consequent flooding with it. In places the Trans Chaco road (asphalt) the water was within 30 centimetres of crossing it. Vast areas of land were under a meter of water, similar to the Somerset flats but on a far bigger scale. We are used to the occasional flooding but this is breaking the local records. In the Community of La Patria, which is the furthest from the asphalt road, they have been cut off since the 21<sup>st</sup> May. That was the day we wanted to fetch the pastors, deacons and church workers to bring them to Rio Verde for a week of Bible teaching and fellowship. Alas it couldn't be. The emergency services distributing foodstuffs are using a couple of helicopters. Paraguay doesn't have many!

However, I have been able to visit El Estribo. They have brought in the sesame harvest and this went well. There has also been movement on the Moringa front, but the weather hasn't been good enough to harvest and dry it. A brother in Christ who worked together with me in this community has signed a contract to provide Moringa leaves to be exported to Spain to make into tea bags. When I know the name of the product I shall let you know. The weather still hasn't cleared enough to harvest and dry the leaves.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> May, Esteban Galeano my colleague in El Estribo organized a thanks giving service to celebrate 4 years of their cattle project. They wanted to publicly give thanks to God for His blessing them and publicly recognizing that it was through seeking God for it. Many of the political leaders in the communities boast about "what they have got for their communities without any credit to the Lord". Here, the credit was fairly and squared attributed to the Lord. This is the first time I have experienced this act from the people in all my working life with the Indian groups, usually they just think it is their right. Praise God His Spirit is moving. Even the Shaman leader who spoke recognized this and broke down in tears. I have a visit planned with the Saint Andrew's secondary students at the end of June beginning of July to help them with their community service/social studies. We hope to build 4 latrines and paint 4 class rooms. I shall be giving them a talk about life in the Indian communities next week. We hope the roads will be passable. The forecast till the end of June isn't good. Even the Iguazu falls have been closed to tourists because of the huge volume of water, going over the cat walks.

Another negative to the flooding on the wider scale is the effect it has on the ranching. The fields all under water, very few high dry spots for the cattle to rest in, difficulty in rounding up the cattle in the large paddocks, especially now at vaccination time. It also effects the labour requirements, so, many jobs will be on hold. Many of the Indian folk work on the ranches. The economic effect is going to be drastic.

I continue my preaching turns at Rio Verde and at the English speaking Chapel. Please continue to pray for this and also, for Victor who visits the Paraguayan Community in Rio Verde, and Pastor Agustin who visits the Indian Community of Sombrero Piri. The Jehovah's' witnesses have moved into Rio Verde and are very active in the area. Please pray that the brethren aren't deceived by them. Alison has handed in her resignation at the Asuncion Christian Academy as Academic Director. It was just too stressful. She was doing more than one job and it was telling. She finishes at the beginning of July. She is going to go back to teaching science. She has been accepted for this at Saint Andrew's college. This is to work 4 days a week, and she will have all the long holidays. So, when we come to the UK, it can be for a longer period and visit our support churches together. Please pray for this new phase of her work. Discipline is an issue at the new job.

Our son Ben is still unemployed, but actively seeking employment. He and some friends are starting up reusing pallets to make furniture as a side line and try and build it into a business.

My sister Jacky's quadruple bypass operation went well, and she has recovered well, but still hasn't got back to work yet. She has done her rehabilitation and is nearly there.

Thanks for your prayers.

Our love and greetings,

Chris and Alison.

PS. We have sorted out a new bank account, but it is in Paraguay. To transfer money to us involves a double transfer cost amounting to about 50 pounds. So, it will be more cost effective to send the monies to SAMS UK and Northern Ireland and for them to build up a certain amount and then change it into US dollars and then wire it to us. The cost is the same for whatever amount. Sorry to burden you with this. Next time we are in the UK we shall try and open another sterling account to remedy this inconvenience for you.

Thanks and greetings,

**Chris and Alison Hawksbee**

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