



Name: Tim Curtis

Location: Paraguayan Chaco

My Call: To promote use of the Holy Scriptures, making people wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ

My Role: Aiming to build on the translation work, with specific focus on the new Énxet Bible

Hello from Paraguayan Chaco!

Dear friends,

Greetings once again from the Paraguayan Chaco!

The worst of the cold winter weather seems to be behind us, and we are enjoying some milder, if more mixed weather. I am back in Paraguay after a much needed holiday during May to recover from all the excitement of the launch of the Énxet Bible back in April.

I spent some time in the UK with my parents in Tewkesbury, my sister Roz and my nephews and nieces in Cheltenham. I was able to unwind and enjoy a complete break. This included a fascinating trip to Istanbul, doing a great deal of walking around the city as I explored its great sights and treasures, not least the awe inspiring St Sophia. I was particularly struck by the beautiful mosaics,

such as the ones at the Church of St Saviour's in Chora, depicting Biblical themes with a refreshing vividness. This was my first encounter with Byzantine art. I was fortunate that I took my break there several weeks before the attack at Istanbul airport. People need to hear the message that Jesus is the light of the world.

It's been all go since I got back. Various candidates for ordination from churches in El Estribo met in Rio Verde in mid-June for interviews and bible study. These were led by Bishop Peter with help from colleagues Chris Hawksbee, Pastor Agustin Maidana and Sally Bartlett.



Top: In Istanbul in May



Bottom: The ordination service at San Carlos, El Estribo





Top left: Nicacio, Celino, Carlos, Remigio and Gilberto

Top right: Maria Acuña Severo, the oldest lady in Makxawaya



Five of the candidates – Nicacio, Celino, Carlos, Remigio and Gilberto – were selected for ordination as deacons. They were duly ordained at a service at San Carlos, El Estribo, on 25 June. One of the new deacons is Celino Rodriguez, who is on the executive committee of the Anglican church of Paraguay.

San Pedro Church in Makxawaya celebrated its 110th anniversary with a service of thanksgiving on July 3. I worked on the order of service in the Rio Verde translation office. Translator Martin Rojas sent me details of the prayers, hymns and readings for the service by text message, which I then printed out and took to Makxawaya. Many visitors from El Estribo attended, as well as a large group of northern Énxet visitors from Campo Largo. Several buses were hired. They arrived the day before the service and many spent Saturday afternoon playing

football. El Estribo drew all three matches with Makxawaya. A very diplomatic result, I thought!

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Several hundred people attended the Saturday night and Sunday morning services. Maria Acuña Severo, in her 80s, and now the oldest lady in Makxawaya, gave us an account of the work and evangelistic outreach of some of the early missionaries. She is the elder sister of the late pastor Zacarias Severo, who was the grandfather of translators Juan Martínez and Asuncion Rojas. Celino Rodriguez, recently ordained,

from El Estribo was in charge of the music and led the worship. The church was decorated in such a fashion as to almost dazzle you as you walked in.

It has been very encouraging for me to see the impact that the Énxet Bible is already beginning to have in places I have visited such as Makxawaya and El Estribo in the few months since the launch. All the readings for the anniversary service, Psalm 117, Nehemiah 1: 6-9, Isaiah 52: 6-10 and Matthew 9: 35-10:1 were taken from the Énxet Bible and read by members of the congregation in Énxet. Requests for Bibles keep coming through, so I have become something of a colporteur in recent months. My grandfather, the late Arthur Neve, was a colporteur for the British and Foreign Bible Society in Buenos Aires from the 1920s until 1945 and visited the indigenous communities in both the Argentine and Paraguayan Chaco.

Bishop Peter has commented that the Bible in Énxet will be a vital tool in the ongoing work of discipleship and leadership training, which is part of the growth in the Anglican Church



I WOULD LOVE YOU TO PRAY FOR ME

Please take time to pray for me as I continue to put my call into action

- Give thanks for my time in the UK and for a much needed holiday in Turkey.
- Give thanks for Nicacio, Celino, Carlos, Remigo and Gilberto who were selected for ordination as deacons. Please pray for their spiritual growth.
- Please pray for my work accompanying the team involved in discipleship and leadership training.

in the Paraguayan Chaco. For my part, I am very happy to be able to accompany the team involved in discipleship and leadership training. I am therefore beginning to set aside more time for visiting the Chaco churches and to team up with Chris Hawksbee, and Pastor Agustin Maidana on the trips to the different indigenous communities for Bible study. These trips continue to be focused around El Estribo, Makxawaya and La Patria. Victor González focuses on the Rio Verde area.

There are a number of other things to finish, however. I am

still working away on the Énxet-Spanish dictionary, at this stage checking and putting in the phonetic transcriptions of the main entries, of which there are rather a large number. I also continue to update Énxet liturgy at the request of the Chaco pastors, and I am in touch with one of the local printers to see if we can print some more hymn books for the Chaco. Miriam de Greco, the diocesan administrator in Asunción, has been of great assistance in this.

With love in the Lord Jesus

Tim

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Top: Musicians from El Estribo lead the worship in Makxawaya

Left: Romualdo Rojas reading from the new Bible