

The Sycamores
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23rd September, 2023

Dear Tim

I hope that my letter finds all well with you and your team in Rio Verde.

We send our greetings to You and all in the Chaco.

I read your September letter with joy. I particularly enjoyed the reflections of Mirna, Elvio and Joel. I like the idea of reflection as it comes with humility and suggests an openness / anticipation for the future. I was particularly encouraged by some common themes emerging...

1. The beautiful image of Christ helping to bind communities together.
2. The humble recognition of the influence that families have on faith development and growth.
3. A strong sense of honouring each other, the land and food supplies.
4. Need to be sensitive to the historical and cultural influences on spreading the Gospel.

Joel's comment "the missionaries not coming with a bible and a sword but with concern and love for the marginalised" certainly struck a chord with me.

We send our belated 'Birthday Greetings' for 64 not out! We haven't sent a cake because you have done so well - with 3 cakes! - already. Congratulations. My best ever - was a two cake birthday!

We, as always, hold you and your team in our thoughts and prayers. We give thanks for the work of Elvio and Brigado on the Northern Enlhet translation of the bible and Asuncion Rojas' work on translating discipleship materials. Do let them know this. Congratulations to Revd Ronald Irene for his new appointment as Anglican Bishop in Paraguay and we pray that he will find joy and fulfilment in this role.

Here in All Saints we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new vicar - Revd Andrew Moreland and his wife Elizabeth. He will be welcomed on Thursday 23rd November. People have worked very hard during the period of interregnum to both maintain services and develop new services and ideas. As a community of faith we are keen to reach out to young families and are exploring a new form of service called 'Bubble Church' - using puppetry to help engage with bible stories. Less formal services - Café Church and First Sunday service are attracting new members which is wonderful. Groups are active in tidying the Church grounds and reaching out pastorally within the community.

On a sad note Dr Chris Woodyatt died peacefully following a severe stroke. I am sure you will remember Chris from your visits here - he took you on the bus to York for the day! He was a wonderful supporter of mission work and in particular those marginalised by society. I will always cherish some of the quiet times I had with Chris. A good and faithful servant we will miss him here.

I am off travelling quite a bit. Next week my nephew and I are off to a conference in Vancouver in support of my niece. I have been given all the questions to ask! In November I am off to Sierra Leone to work for 2 weeks with Mercy Ships. Please pray for safe journeys and good outcomes.

Well Tim we send you all our love and support.

Every Blessing

Chris Rigg