

SAMS IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT
SUBMITTED TO AGM ON THURSDAY 11th OCTOBER 2007
IN THE JETHRO CENTRE, LURGAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Life is evolving at a tremendous rate today and the work of Mission continues at a faster pace than ever. SAMS Ireland is grateful to God for the growth of the work in South America and for the increase in prayer and financial giving. At all times we attempt to be proactive and also responsive to the needs of the Church at home and overseas. Much of our work is relationship building, education in Mission and communication of the Gospel Message of Mission. Increasingly we are supporting nationals both here in Ireland and in South America as well as continuing to send individuals and teams overseas. We also continue to link with other mission agencies and church bodies when possible as we strive to present mission to the people.

2. PERSONNEL

During the past year we had three teams which visited Paraguay and Brazil and many volunteers for periods of 3 weeks to 1 year. One of the teams was a 'Love for Life' education team to Paraguay.

Elaine Hutchinson from Belfast was selected for one year, teaching in St. Andrew's College, Asuncion and this is currently an area of great need.

Claire Holmes continues in her long-term work in Concepcion and Stephen & Eileen Trew and family have just returned home after seven very productive years in Paraguay. Pablo Ochoa (Chile) has been placed in Primacy Parish, Bangor for one year and we look forward to the visit of Samuel Lago (Chile) for a year in All Saint's, Belfast.

We continue to support Rachel Greco and Gerardo Gimpel. A list of personnel we have links with is on the separate pink sheet.

3. EVENTS

(a) Friday Night Live 2007 - FNL was held in the new Jethro Centre, Lurgan and 400 people attended to make this a night to remember. The excellent keynote address was given by Archdeacon Andrew Forster and the evening which was introduced by our Chairman Bishop Clarke was full of interviews and presentations from both home and overseas personnel.

(b) SIWOK Crafts - We are pleased that following the continuing success of the sale of these Argentinean crafts, Paula Waite one of our volunteers has offered to be our SIWOK representative in Ireland.

(c) SAMS International - For the first time ever in Ireland SAMS representatives from GB, USA, Canada, and Ireland met for discussion on the way forward. The Conference took place in the Glenada Centre, Newcastle, Co. Down and was very favourably received by all concerned.

4. CONCLUSION

The General Council and Regional Committee met throughout the year and the encouragement and oversight of these Committees is greatly appreciated.

We are very fortunate to have Bishop Ken Clarke and Canon Desmond McCreery as Chairmen of our respective governing bodies and also other committee members.

Geoff Hamilton continues to offer new ideas and innovation to our organisation and is doing a correspondence course in Theology with St. John's College, Nottingham. During the year Felix Blennerhassett retired from CMS but kindly agreed to look after our interests in the South working from home. Billy and Laura Blair's input of pastoral care and hospitality allied to Billy's computer skills is second to none. Dawn Hamilton has a real heart for mission and does a very worthwhile work in the SAMS House in Lurgan. Tom Stevenson has taken on our Gift Aid donations and his volunteer work has increased our income considerably. We are also indebted to our auditor, Mr Paul Spence who in a gentlemanly manner keeps our finances on the right track.

I personally am very appreciative of our team in Ireland and all who give their time and energy to support our work and the spread of Christ's Kingdom in Latin America and beyond.

DENIS JOHNSTON
GENERAL SECRETARY