

## Mission Paraguay 2008

This summer 12 volunteers from Churches in Ireland will be joining 24 others from England to work for 3 weeks on a variety of projects organised through the Anglican Church in Paraguay and in association with SAMS. All of the work undertaken is funded by the churches taking part and through donations from other supporting organisations and individuals.

During July a group will be staying at Luque a suburb of Asunción, the capital and working with local Paraguayans to complete the third phase of a centre for youth and children's work. The building will also be a base for short breaks for people living in some of the poorest areas of the city. A new venture this year is to provide training workshops in the use of sewing machines, which were sent from the UK a few months ago, to enable mothers to make simple children's clothes and develop this as a self sustaining cottage industry. As in past years a number of small home improvements such as replacing earth floors with concrete and providing corrugated sheet roofs instead of polythene sheets will be undertaken.

The sparsely populated Chaco an area affected by drought for much of the year, where the indigenous Indian people live, will be the temporary home during August for another group of volunteers. They will be assisting with various water collection and storage projects, the construction of 10 very simple homes, and repairs to church buildings in the El Estribo and Rio Verde areas. These are communities where the Anglican Church has a strong presence and is encouraging a variety of self sufficiency projects. FEISA, the Anglican teacher training college, is actively working in this region to provide resources for Indian schools which lack the very basics such as paper and desks. As in past years, all the volunteer groups this summer centre very much upon work with, and improving facilities for, children.



**Infant school at Dos Palmas**



The second August group will be based in Concepción a town of about 40,000 people where motor cycles, horses and carts abound, pigs and other animals wander the earth roads. Unemployment and social problems are high. The work here includes home improvements, extending facilities for the work of the church and a range of child based activities arranged through Claire Holmes who for many years Claire has worked tirelessly amongst the children in Concepción and the surrounding area.

One great blessing for all those involved in Mission Paraguay is to visit projects completed in previous years, to see them in use, hear how further developments are being taken forward and to hear of the plans for the local church to reach out into the community.

Please continue to pray for the volunteers, for Claire Holmes and for ongoing outreach work of local pastors and other mission partners working throughout Paraguay.

A Mission Paraguay 2008 diary will be available through the SAMS Ireland website.

Grateful thanks is expressed to all those who continues to support the work in Paraguay.

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