



# Tim Curtis

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**Location:** Paraguay



**What I do:** Building up the body of Christ through writing, translating and producing discipleship training and study materials in the Énxet language.

Dear praying friends,

Greetings from Rio Verde in the Paraguayan Chaco.

The winter is well and truly over and we are into very hot weather again, with only the occasional day giving us some respite with a cooler southerly wind.

We have much to give thanks for. It has been an amazing few months since I last wrote. I have been wonderfully encouraged by the completion of the dubbing of the 1979 Jesus Film at the Anglican Centre in Rio Verde. Jesus Film Project technicians Gustavo and Franco, both from Peru, arrived in Paraguay back in July and worked on the dubbing

of the film into the Mby'a language in eastern Paraguay, before joining us in Rio Verde to work with the Southern Énxet team. This was made up of 22 indigenous actors from across the "Anglican Zone". The training we all had earlier in the year provided by Ivan from Mexico, and Rodrigo, from Ecuador, meant that my colleagues Asunción Rojas and Guillermo Gonzalez were able to work well with Gustavo and Franco, helping to check the recording and monitor the acting skills of the readers.

I was extremely grateful for the help that caretaker Victor Gonzalez gave with the catering. Actors work well when given good meals. We were relieved that there were no power cuts to speak of, except for one of about four hours on the last day but one. I say this because last week, for example, Rio Verde was without power for two and a half days and the other day we had a 10-hour power cut.

We were delighted to welcome Jo Anthony from CMS to Rio Verde in September. Jo was able to visit a number of Angaité indigenous communities in La Patria, and Southern Énxet communities in El Estribo, La Herencia and Makxawaya. She also went to Rio Verde with Pastor Gustavo Rojas, his wife Rebeca and their daughters Sofia and Valery. I accompanied the group on a number of the trips with the vehicle I use in Rio Verde. Jo was able to interview two sons of indigenous pastors, Hermenegildo and Luis Miguel, who are receiving help to enable them to finish their high school education. Jo also met up with pastors, church leaders, musicians, young people and Sunday school children in the different communities, and even encountered a large nocturnal tapir on one of the trips.

Education remains very much on the minds of indigenous pastors and church leaders in an area where educational opportunities are minimal. The indigenous congress taking place in Temuco, Chile from 12–18 October will continue the conversation and debate on the various challenges indigenous young people



*Dacio in the role of Simeon*

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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**



face, particularly in the Paraguayan Chaco and in northern Argentina, where historical marginalisation causes frustration in indigenous communities. The issue of adequate theological education for indigenous pastors in areas of linguistic diversity, cultural differences, geographical isolation, lack of infrastructure, and extreme weather continues to focus minds.

The Paraguayan Chaco has always been a part of the world known for extreme weather and long cycles of drought followed by high rainfall and flooding. This year has been one of the drier ones. With some very modest rain in August and September in Rio Verde we have enough water to keep going for another few weeks. For several weeks, the Chaco skies have been very hazy with smoke from fires in Bolivia moving southwards into Paraguay, giving the sun a strange red hue, and warnings of “black rain” have been issued in some parts of the country. The Paraguayan military have mounted a large-scale operation delivering water to indigenous communities, small towns and settlements throughout the Chaco. In El Estribo I noticed that many are digging extra wells, as they have traditionally done, in their search for water. Please pray for rain.

Looking ahead, our Jesus Film technicians Gustavo and Franco have suggested that a Southern Énxet recording of the entire Old Testament could be done with the help and direction of the DAVAR organisation. This would take place in Lima, Peru. Four good readers of the language would need to be selected, and the recording would be done in two stages. In recent weeks I have been in touch with various readers from Énxet communities in El Estribo to find out who might be available. I ask for your prayers that this would come together at the right time.

The Énxet dictionary work continues. At the end of September Asunción Rojas and I took part in a meeting in Karandá, El Estribo, with teachers and local Ministry of Education representatives to report on progress, and to explore how this dictionary can be best used. We looked at the layout of major language dictionaries such as English–Spanish, Portuguese–Spanish dictionaries, and exchanged ideas about the layout of the Énxet dictionary and what else needs to be included.

I continue to work part time on the Northern Enlhet Bible revision with team members Evencio, Brígido, Arnold and Melvin. We are currently working on Brígido’s draft of Ezekiel and Evencio’s draft of Daniel. I give thanks for progress made on this important Bible revision.

“I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, among the peoples.” Psalm 57:9

Many thanks for your prayers,

Tim



*Photos from top to bottom: Guillermo as Jesus of Nazareth; actors enjoying a meal provided by Victor; Tim, pastor Gumerindo, Hermenegildo and son, and Jo Anthony; taking a lunch break in La Patria*



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