



# 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.



**Empowering** people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential

Dear praying friends,

Greetings from the Paraguayan Chaco.

After a very exciting and busy 2024 full of blessings, this year promises to be equally busy and exciting.

It was a great privilege to attend the Indigenous Anglican Congress in Koyamentu near Temuco, Chile in October last year. The event was hosted by our Chilean Mapuche colleagues, led by bishop Joel Millanguir. Our Paraguayan delegation was led by bishop elect Ronald Irene, who will be consecrated bishop of Paraguay in March this year. Our accommodation was located in beautiful surroundings with well kept gardens and orchards. After the extreme heat of Paraguay it was like being in heaven. The opening of the Congress coincided with the 121st anniversary service of El Redentor Church, Maquehue during which the choir sang All hail the power of Jesus' name. For me it was like going down memory lane, as my father Tom Curtis used to preach at this church during the 1960s when my parents worked as SAMS missionaries.

The Indigenous Anglican Congress in Salta, Argentina back in 2022 had brought together indigenous Christians from Paraguay, Northern Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Panama and Peru. Discussion had centred on educational needs in an indigenous context and the need to improve theological training for indigenous Christian leaders, and ways for young people to access higher education in countries where they are marginalised and face particular challenges. During the recent congress in Temuco, Chile, these were all expanded and approached, as always, from a biblical perspective, with times of prayer and worship, and teaching. There were new contributions from New Zealand Māori Christians, and, of particular interest to me was a contribution from a Colombian delegate who reminded us of the fundamental importance of Bible translation in communicating the gospel in a language that people can understand as well as its role in revitalising indigenous languages.

The role of the Énxet Bible in revitalising the indigenous churches in the Paraguayan Chaco was on my mind again in November last year when I travelled to Lima, Peru, with Énxet-speaking colleagues Asunción,



*El Redentor 121st anniversary service*

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



Roberto, Serafín and Seferino to begin audio recordings of the Énxet Old Testament with Davar Audio Bibles. We met Davar director Jaime Almeida and his team of sound engineers and it was wonderful to meet up again with technicians Gustavo and Franco who had worked with us on the Jesus Film Project in Río Verde in August last year. During our five weeks there we used the premises of an organisation called ILMAV, Impactando las Lenguas Minoritarias con Audiovisuales (in English, Impacting Minority Languages with Audiovisuals). During our time in

Lima we recorded about 70 per cent of the Old Testament.

In Lima, I was given the completed Jesus Film in Énxet. Back in Paraguay I showed the film in several Énxet communities between Christmas and the New Year. There was very encouraging feedback from our audiences who had waited in great anticipation to see the film. The Jesus Film Project has been described as the most effective film project of all time – it’s available in more than 2000 languages and is the most translated film in history (for more information, see the Jesus Film Project website).

I was back in Lima on 15 January with Énxet pastor Elvio and Angaite colleague Hermenegildo for the Indigenous Synod hub meeting. Our hosts were the Rev Victor Condori and his team. Mapuche Bishop Joel Millanguir from Chile coordinated the sessions in his role as president of Misión Indígena and the synod hub meeting. Sandra Aillal and Paul Tester gave financial reports. Mirna Paulo and Alejandro Díaz from Northern Argentina, Justo from Peru and Gonzalo from Bolivia were also present. We had comfortable accommodation at the Diospi Suyana guest house. We discussed the impact of the Congress in Temuco, support for theological education, for example the Rural Bible Institute in Chol Chol, Chile, as well as Christian education ministries in Northern Argentina, Bolivia and Peru. In Paraguay this translates to continued support for the Bible teaching ministry of pastor Gustavo Flores in the “Anglican zone” and teaching at the Río Verde centre as well as financial help to enable pastors’ sons Hermenegildo and Luis Miguel to finish their secondary education.

On the Sunday we were in Lima we attended the English and Spanish language services at the Good Shepherd Anglican Cathedral. After lunch, Paul Tester took us on a walking tour. We were surprised to meet up with Paddington Bear in the form of a statue placed by the British Embassy in a recreational area overlooking the sea, perhaps appealing to Britain’s soft power to project its interests. We, however have a more serious task, which is God-given.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us (2 Corinthians 5:19–20).

Many thanks for your prayers,

Tim Curtis



*Photos from top to bottom: Énxet Old Testament readers in Lima; Seferino getting ready to read Micah; showing the Jesus Film in Énxet, San Carlos, El Estribo; with Paddington Bear*



## Empowering people pushed to the edges of life

I’ve been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around my wider area of work. In South Sudan, communities have taken steps towards peace as pastors from different tribal groups reconciled, and my colleague Joan has shared a growing vision of a new tribe of peacemakers. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org/empower](https://churchmissionsociety.org/empower)

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