



# 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 in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The highlight of the year has been the joyous consecration of Ronald Irene as bishop of Paraguay in March. We were blessed with many visitors for this great occasion. Bishops from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia and the UK, and clergy from Uruguay and Ghana, joined with our own indigenous and non-indigenous clergy in the ceremony. Paul Tester represented CMS, and the British ambassador was also present. Several of the pastors from La Patria braved the atrocious weather and flooding that affected their communities and were able to make it to the Anglican cathedral in Asunción after a gruelling trip on their motorbikes to get to the Trans-Chaco Highway in the rain and the mud. After the service refreshments were served, which greatly revived our exhausted colleagues from La Patria. We enjoyed the food and drink in the gardens next to the cathedral, to the sound of traditional Paraguayan music, and with a team of folkloric dancers performing various dances, including the famous bottle dance, in which performers dance with glass bottles balanced on their heads. As the dance progresses, the number of bottles increases.



*Consecration of bishop Ronald Irene*

As this new chapter in the life of the church in Paraguay begins, we have all been praying for Bishop Ronald, his wife Nicola (Nicky) and their children Natasha, Tamara, Daniel, and especially for their youngest son Samuel, who has been ill and had to seek medical care in the UK. Bishop Ronald has the challenge of leading a church whose members reflect Paraguay's cultural diversity, with its congregations in Asunción, greater Asunción, Concepción, and the Chaco, where the indigenous Southern Énxet, Angaite and Sanapana congregations are located.

Bad weather, torrential rain and flooding in many parts of the Chaco during March and April meant that pastoral retreats and events scheduled to take place at the Anglican centre in Rio Verde had to be postponed. In spite of the extreme weather, members of the diocesan team were able to use the Rio Verde centre as a base for distributing food and aid for those affected by the floods, mainly in the Angaite and Sanapana communities in La Patria. I took provisions and clothes to La Patria with pastor Gustavo Flores. Some communities, like Makxawaya, were not affected at all. The floods have since subsided and the roads have mostly been repaired. It has been a real blessing having a new four-wheel drive vehicle for getting around the tough road conditions in the Chaco. It has replaced the previous Toyota Hilux, which I used for the last

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



10 years. A special thank you to those who have made it possible to have this new vehicle and to keep it regularly serviced.

During the year I have continued using the translation office, working with Asunción on discipleship training materials in Énxet and keeping an eye on the Bibles stored there. Dictionary work is also progressing. Just recently, a section of the roof seems to have become a home for bats! I am not sure what to do about that!

During April I rejoined the Northern Enlhet Bible revision team in Filadelfia. Evencio, Brígido and Arnold have now started working through the gospels. It is encouraging to see the progress they have made. The 1979 Jesus Film in Northern Enlhet is now also available, as well as the film in Southern Énxet.

We returned to Lima for three weeks during May with colleagues Asunción Rojas and Serafín Sosa to continue and complete the recordings of the Southern Énxet Old Testament with DAVAR Audio Bibles. Our days of recording were intensive and we were blessed with good voices, that is, none of us had colds or sore throats, which are common at this time of year and might have affected the recordings. We met up again with sound technicians Franco, Gustavo, and Roberto, recording Numbers, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Proverbs, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. It has been wonderful to be soaked in the Scriptures most of the day and every day, and I was reminded of the second verse of the hymn May the Mind of Christ my Saviour, in which we sing, "may the Word of God dwell richly in your heart from hour to hour". I have sung this hymn frequently since my early twenties.

Still in Peru, we attended the institution of the Rev Bliss Spillar as Dean of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima on 18 May. The service was conducted in English and Spanish. It was good to see mission associate Rev Juan Carlos Marcés again as well as Victor Condori, a member of the indigenous mission team. Both had been at Bishop Ronald's consecration in Paraguay, where I ferried them a number of times between Das Heim, the Mennonite hotel where they were staying, and the cathedral and diocesan office compound.

Before we left Lima there was time for a little sightseeing in this great city. We visited the main square in central Lima and posed for photographs in front of the presidential palace, and the large water park with its impressive fountains and gardens.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly.

Many thanks for your prayers,

Tim Curtis



**Photos from top to bottom:** Taking supplies to La Patria; Tim keeping an eye on the office; in Lima again for the recording of the Southern Énxet Old Testament; Asunción and Serafín with technicians Franco and Roberto



## 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 Ukraine, families are being assured they are not alone amid the hardship of war, and our colleagues in Paraguay have seen a young man overcome challenges to learn academically and spiritually. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org/empower](https://churchmissionsociety.org/empower)

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