

Catherine Le Tissier and Nick Drayson

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The call in action

Dear friends,

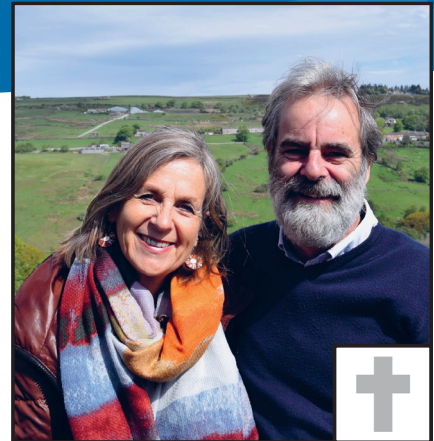
It is just over six months since we returned to Argentina after an unexpected 18 months away. Nothing is quite as it was before, and it does feel rather as if we are counting down to our departure, even if that is still over a year away. We are now packing in preparation for a return visit to the UK. Deja vu? Well, we are going together as far as Buenos Aires (with a short visit to Uruguay) and then Nick will be going to the Primates' meeting in London. With all that is going on it is hard to get excited, but it will be lovely to see some of the family. *Please pray for safety and stamina, as well as inspirational leadership.*

Nick has been quite unwell recently, and so this trip will be a bit of a test. Some rather rough trips in the Chaco heat have contributed to UTIs and high temperatures and he ended up in hospital, where he caught something else, and is struggling to get back to full strength. He can fully identify with Stefanie now, who has had COVID-19 on top of glandular fever, which is not much fun as she has a few months to finish her MA in drama therapy. *Please pray for healing and focus.*

Until being interrupted by illness, we have divided the past months between Salta and Ingeniero Juarez. Nick has visited a lot of the communities, and together we have accompanied the assistant bishops in visiting places they don't often get to, such as Tucuman, or Nueva Pompeya. This has meant a lot of driving, and the inevitable questions about who the next bishop will be, or if there will be changes of structure to accommodate to the areas to be covered pastorally by the present leadership. *Please pray for our fellow bishops and the challenges and adaptations they face.*

We also had a memorable visit to Buenos Aires for the consecration of the new bishop there. Brian Williams had been elected some time ago, but the pandemic had meant he could not be accompanied by a sufficient number of other bishops for a full consecration. It was good to see the indigenous bishops taking part in his installation. *Please pray for the Anglican Church in Argentina as it adapts to new shapes in leadership. May it continue to embody good news.*

Sadly we continue to lose some older leaders, and young ones are beginning to be ordained. We recently held a bereavement service in Barrio Obrero and visited the nearby cemetery on behalf of multiple families who have been unable to erect crosses until now. There is also quite a backlog of candidates to serve as deacons, and learn the ropes regarding pastoral care and discipleship. Bishops Crisanto and Mateo will increasingly take on responsibility for these new deacons and the areas they represent. *Pray for a new generation of leaders filled with the Holy Spirit and the love and wisdom of God.*



Name: Catherine Le Tissier and Nick Drayson

Location: Northern Argentina

Our call: To serve God's kingdom, making disciples in different cultures and enabling people to develop appropriate forms of church to respond to local needs.

Our role: Nick is the Primate of the Province of South America and Bishop of Northern Argentina (with two indigenous assistant bishops). Catherine coordinates the AMARE women's organisation across the Province.



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Bishops at large in Tucuman!

In our “home patch”, a small group of young people have been helping out a bit in cleaning up and securing the mission house and grounds, as well as asking for lifts to visit far flung communities. This has given Nick a chance to visit these places. Unfortunately it has been quite tiring with the heat, and his health has taken a knock. However, the visits are always welcome, and there are often confirmations to do. *Please pray for young people, and for far flung communities who always need visits.*

Meanwhile Catherine has been concentrating on preparing to step down as AMARE provincial coordinator and helping others “step up”. In June we will hold our 3rd General Assembly, when a South American provincial team will be sworn in for the next three years, which this time will include women from the different Dioceses of South America. Very sadly our dear rep for the urban work, Graciela Ladron Guevera, passed from earth to heaven just one month ago. She is missed greatly but her shining example of love, care for others and faith continues to live on in the lives of all of us who knew her. *Please pray for the organisational side of AMARE, for inspiration and courage for the women, especially the leaders. Also, for the growth of AMARE in the Dioceses of Bolivia, Peru, Argentina and Paraguay, and for women in leadership as they form teams, and disciple their own and others’ children.*

In the process of cleaning and repainting the house, Catherine has been sorting through materials for Sunday School, and taking the opportunity to offer some training to the local churches. We are also encouraging all our leaders to do safeguarding training, as we emphasise the importance and safety of children. *Please pray that parents will take responsibility for the Christian education of their children and that churches will be creative and ambitious for the lives of children and young people who need guidance*

We also both continue to do quite a lot of Zoom calls, especially in preparation for the Lambeth conference. We are pleased to be able to meet regularly with our colleagues and their wives, and recently ratified the election of the first national bishop in Bolivia. Each of the dioceses face lots of challenges in the attempt to find self-sufficiency under local leadership. Nick finds he is quite stretched trying to accompany these movements across Latin America as well as more local concerns (not to mention meetings across the Anglican Communion, including Mothers’ Union). *Please pray for the meetings at “top table” and the opportunities to influence policy and practice in the wider church.*

With our love,
Catherine and Nick



Photos from top to bottom: Consecration in Buenos Aires; Praying for the bereaved in Juarez cemetery; Old and new generations; AMARE women in Salta (Graciela to Catherine’s left).

GOING FURTHER WITH CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

Are you pondering a call to cross-cultural mission? We’d love to connect and help you discern what God might be saying. Find out more about how we can help you to step into God’s mission at churchmissionsociety.org/explore

If you would like to discuss your mailings with us or to receive this link letter on a regular basis, please email supporter.care@churchmissionsociety.org or call 01865 787400

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