



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 friends,

Greetings from the UK, where I have just come to the end of my February to May 2023 home ministry for CMS. It has been good to see so many familiar faces and to have the opportunity to thank everyone for their support over the years. I can hardly believe that last April marked the 40th anniversary of my arrival in the Paraguayan Chaco.

As in previous years, I have been based in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, where Dad, Tom Curtis, continues to hold the fort, keeping well and enjoying being involved in the country churches such as Tredington, Stoke Orchard and Deerhurst. It has been good to spend time with him, preparing meals together, walking into Tewkesbury or browsing in bookshops in Cheltenham, and also to know that my sisters Roz and Zoe are nearby in Cheltenham and that they, along with our friendly neighbours and home helps, keep an eye on Dad. It has been a particular privilege to visit my link churches during the past three months and to be so well looked after by my hosts there. I have been welcomed into so many homes and enjoyed such warm Christian fellowship as well as concerts, exhibitions, National Trust properties, parks and gardens such as Chartwell and Nymans, and even an outing in a throaty Morgan sports car courtesy of Chris Rigg from All Saints South Cave, Yorkshire. It was good to meet up briefly with Peter and Janny Faulkner. It was Peter Faulkner who invited me to work with the Énxet people during the time of the La Herencia project. Just recently, on 30 April, Paraguay elected a new president, Santiago Peña, who will be sworn in on 15 August. He obtained a very clear majority against his main rival, Efraín Alegre. There was a good turnout amongst the indigenous population of the Chaco, who made the most of their trips to the voting stations, which were more like day outings for many. Please pray for a peaceful transition.



At home with my father, Tom Curtis

I would value your prayers for our vicar general Agustin Maidana who resigned in April. He and his wife Teresa had been suffering from a bad case of chikungunya, which causes high fever, headaches and very bad joint and muscle pain. The virus is spread by mosquitoes, and there has been something of a chikungunya epidemic in recent months. They are now recovering and resting at their home in Aregua, on the outskirts of Asunción. Pastor Gustavo Flores, who is a frequent visitor to the Chaco with his wife Rebeca, now has legal oversight of the diocese. Bishop Greg Venables, who has served as the Anglican Primate of South America, will have spiritual oversight of the Anglican Diocese of Paraguay until such time as a bishop is

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elected, possibly at the forthcoming synod which will be held in Asunción on 22 June. Please pray for bishop Greg Venables and his wife Silvia, and for pastor Gustavo Flores, his wife Rebeca and daughter Sofía, as they take on new responsibilities.

Once I return to Paraguay I will be working out the logistics of getting the indigenous Énxet and Angaité delegates to the synod in June, meeting with our administrator Marlene Alcoba, Gustavo Flores, Chris Hawksbee and other colleagues in the diocese. Please pray

as we discuss the way forward for the work in the Chaco, including the pastoral retreats in Rio Verde which had got underway again in March.

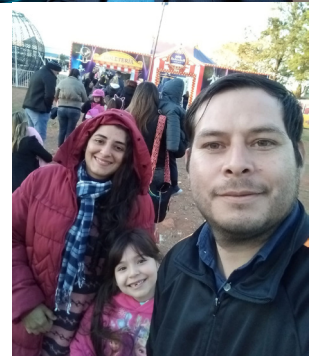
Before the synod, from 15–19 June, I hope to take part in the Misión Indígena meeting for indigenous Christian leaders in Buenos Aires. Accompanying me will be pastor Elvio Cabañas and Angaité representative Hermenegildo Torres. We hope to join colleagues from Argentina, Chile, Peru and Bolivia who are creating this new hub for mission to and from indigenous contexts. This follows on from the Indigenous Anglican Congress which was held last October at La Caldera. Then, none of the Angaité indigenous representatives travelled to Salta, as their political leaders rejected the COVID-19 vaccine, so I am pleased that for this smaller meeting, Hermenegildo will be able to travel with us. It will be Hermenegildo's first trip abroad and first time on an aeroplane. Please pray for safety during travel to and from Buenos Aires for all those taking part in this midwinter meeting.

I hope to resume working on discipleship training materials and finish translating the booklet *The God who Saves* (by Peter Faulkner) with Énxet translator Asunción Rojas in the Rio Verde centre. I also hope to continue working part time on the Northern Enlhet Bible revision, with colleagues Evencio Froise, Brígido Lowen and Arnold Boschmann in the Mennonite town of Filadelfia. Paraguayan Bible Society CEO Samuel Fleitas has contacted me about dubbing *The Jesus Film* into Énxet, so I need to follow this up when I return.

During the last few months there has been above average rainfall in the Chaco with some areas such as La Patria reporting quite serious flooding with roads under water in places. A number of homes have also been flooded. The above average rainfall suggests that we have come to the end of the present cycle of dry years, and are in for several years of more abundant rain. These cycles are normal for the Chaco region of Paraguay.

Once again, thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement and support over the years.

Tim Curtis



Photos from top to bottom: At the wheel of a Morgan sports car; Janny and Peter Faulkner; Gustavo Flores with his wife Rebeca and daughter Sofía; floods in the Chaco



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