



march

wake up

spread the word

celebrate easter



Praying for the nation. In mid-February evangelical leaders in Argentina called for a Day of Prayer. A vast crowd gathered to pray in the Plaza de Mayo in the centre of Buenos Aires, and in town squares throughout the country.

The collapse of the economy in December and emergency measures introduced by government have left the people of Argentina feeling dazed, betrayed and angry. Church leaders see the crisis as a wake-up call to the church, to stand for true values in a society which has allowed corruption and mismanagement to bring it to the brink of disaster.

Please pray in solidarity with Christian brothers and sisters in Argentina who are rising to the challenge the present crisis brings:

- to make a stand against corruption
- to get recognition for evangelicals
- to help those in need
- to cope in reduced circumstances
- for revival which impacts society

For more on Argentina, see the next issue of *Latinfile*, published mid-March.

1 Channel of light. Asoma Christian TV station in Ecuador is in the process of starting re-transmission of satellite broadcasts of the Christian channel, *Canal Luz*, to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Please pray for Latin Link's Doug Cowan and his colleagues at Asoma as they develop Christian TV programming.

5 KidsGames. Churches north of greater Buenos Aires, Argentina, are invited to register this month for KidsGames, taking place over four Saturdays in April and May. Centred on biblical values, KidsGames will include sporting and other recreational activities, together with Bible readings for children from 4-14. The vision is to mobilise churches, who have a passion to reach children and young people in their area for Christ, in a creative way. To take part, groups must sign up for training this month – please pray for a good response.

10 Quacking good news! Those who saw the *One Minute Window* from Brazil in last month's Prayer Guide may remember praying for Gwen Griffin (or Auntie Quack-Quack), and the purchase of building land in Rio Pequeno shantytown. Gwen thanks all who prayed and writes, 'Praise the Lord - a million times – the documents were signed and the money handed over.' They hope to start building a new church, school and community centre in April.

Prayer Guide is designed for flexible use and the points may be used at any time during the month. We include a Diary of events, and for those who prefer to pray systematically, suggested dates against each prayer point.



diary

5-7 Please pray for a camp for teenagers, the first of several breaks organised by

churches in Lima's shantytowns:

9 Day retreat for women

15-17 Camp for 9-11 year olds

29-31 Retreat for young people

Pray that these times away will be fun, refreshing and special, as the different groups focus on God.

23 6th anniversary celebration in the church in Fundo California shantytown, Lima, which they pray may be both a time for giving thanks and reaching others. 'Praise God we are still there, despite all the problems with tenure of the land,' says Latin Link's Margaret Saunderson. 'We have just had a very good holiday Bible club, and the church continues to grow – it has just started a new work called "The Rock" in an area where a couple from Fundo California moved last year.'

One Minute Window with Wilma Davies in Argentina



Wilma with husband, Paul

While mum was here on holiday she started to make me two skirts. Just as she was about to stitch all the bits together we discovered the machine wouldn't work – long neglect, no doubt! So off to the repair shop I went, sewing machine in tow on the luggage wheels. As the assistant looked at me, her face brightened into a huge smile. 'Oh, help,' I thought, 'I do know that face, but what's her name?' It had been

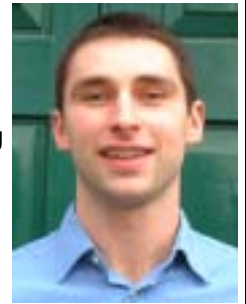
several years since we met, here, in this very shop, only last time she was a customer and now she was serving. 'I recognise you,' she said, and immediately plunged into her story.

'The last time you were here, your husband said to me, "We've come all the way from Britain to serve Jesus in Argentina, and you have the church on your doorstep and never go!" Well, that really hit me and I thought, "He's right!" So I went back to the church, got baptised, and I've been there ever since. The Lord has helped me so much since then. My estranged husband left me some money and I bought this business. Thanks to God, it's doing well. Isn't the Lord good!'

23-28 New Mission Development Worker

Chris Stansfield

(right) asks for prayer in his role, encouraging young people into mission. Please pray particularly for good conversations as he helps on the world mission stands at Spring Harvest's Word Alive.



26-28 The Congregational Church

Forum in north-east Brazil meets to debate three issues due for definition at the National Assembly next year: modes of baptism, women's ordination, and divorced pastors. Latin Link member Winifred Every-Clayton will help lead the debate on women's ordination.

31 Easter Day – *'the strife is o'er, the battle won'*, goes an Easter hymn. All our struggles find their answer in Christ. *Alleluia!*

15 **Fears for El Niño.** Freak summer rains in Peru and hail in Bolivia have caused flooding, bringing fears of a return of El Niño. There have been rains in Peru's desert areas, and 5,000 families lost their homes; others had to clean up houses filled with mud and stones. Please pray that adequate preparations will be put in place if there is a real threat of more to come.

20 **Biggest Step yet.** The number of Spring Steppers leaving for Latin America this month is the highest yet and something we praise God for. Please pray for Step Co-ordinator Laurence East, responsible for development of the Step programme, and for the teams:

- Bolivia team members David and Denise Flynn are leading a team exclusively for deaf people. Please pray for this team of ten, as they get involved in Deaf ministries and use Bolivian Sign Language.
- International Latin Link member, David Frith, is leading a multi-national, mixed age team to the mountain town of Ayacucho, Peru, for two weeks. Pray for team members as they seek the Lord about what mission will mean for them in the future – while painting an orphanage, sharing with the children and experiencing Quechua culture.
- Five other large teams in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Peru going for four months.



This year's Spring Steppers

25 **News from nowhere.** The little Bible study group started as a result of relief efforts to the remote town of Yanakihua, following Peru's earthquake last year, has grown to 30 – wonderful news from Latin Link's Rosemary Gibson, headteacher at the International College, which led the aid initiative. Please pray for:

- former pupil, Jenny Meléndez, leading the work in Yanakihua.
- a newly-graduated pastor from Rosemary's church in Arequipa, who has offered some help.
- Yanakihua's local priest, who is wary of the new group, that potential divisions will be healed early on.

30 **Passing on the baton.** International Team Leader John Chapman asks for prayer for his last few months in office, as he prepares to hand over responsibility for Latin Link International to Marcel Dürst. John and wife, Debbie, will move to Ealing, west London in June, where John will take up a curacy, his first appointment with the Church of England.

More ways to pray

Prayer Guide, sent on request by post or email each month, is one of a number of Latin Link prayer resources:

- **The 2002 Prayer Calendar** features all current Latin Link members, with a brief description of their country, team and work. With pages dated 1 to 31 and prayer points for each day of the year
- **Latinfile** – our full-colour news and information sheet, mailed three times a year
- **Members' prayer letters** – an insight into their work and country of service, as well as personal and family news – on request
- **Prayer groups** – an opportunity to join Latin Link's praying network. Ask for your nearest group, or we can help you start your own
- **Prayer cassettes** – recorded news and interviews, produced bi-monthly to provide additional material for prayer groups
- **Prayerline** – prayer pointers for the week ahead, on 020 7939 9018

For further details, please telephone or email us.

If you would like to make a donation to the cost of producing Prayer Guide, we suggest £5 annually.



175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AB
tel. 020 7939 9000 | fax. 020 7939 9015
email. ukoffice@latinlink.org
website. www.latinlink.org

Latin Link is an international community drawn from many churches, with a focus on Latin America and a commitment to world mission.

Latin Link is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England 2811525. Registered office: 175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AB. Registered charity 1020826.