

1 New Year. At the beginning of 2001 let's pray that all Latin Americans will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and respond to it.

Pray that God's people throughout the region will be alert to opportunities to show his love and care for those the world shuns or ignores because they are deaf, because they are disabled, because they are poor – for whatever reason.

Please pray:

- for teachers, staff and pupils at the Vinto school for the deaf in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where Latin Link has sent Step Teams and helpers.

- for Denise Flynn, who used to teach at Vinto, and is herself deaf. She has recently started a Deaf Discipleship Course at Belfast Bible College, while husband David is studying at Queen's University.

- for Viv Whitfield, whose hearing is impaired, as she communicates the work of Latin Link in southeast England.

5 New status. Very often in Latin America, lack of money and the sheer circumstances of poverty mean that people grow up with no birth certificate. Without the right pieces of paper it's very difficult to get proper employment. It's also hard to get married, so many people just live together. But once they become Christians they want to legalise this arrangement, only to face untold paperwork barriers. This is the case in a church in Macafé, Brazil; Bill and Glenice McMillan ask us to pray for people with legal expertise to help several new Christians in this way. Once they're legally married, they can be baptised and become integrated into church life.

8 New commitment. Many thanks for praying for The Big Bond at the end of November. This



'I love you' crosses every barrier

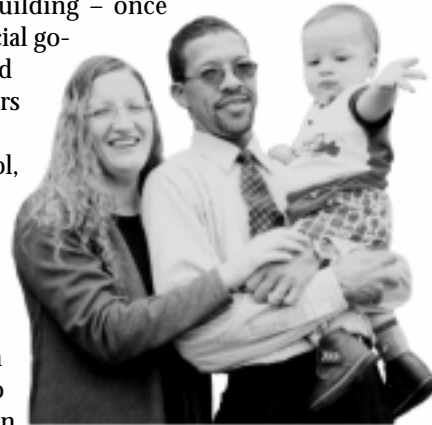
event attracted around 250 people who had been to Latin America short-term with Latin Link over the past 15 years. The atmosphere was one of great enthusiasm and dedication, and we praise God for all he is doing, and will do. Pray that each person will respond to God's calling on their life.

12 New job. Please pray for Laurence East who takes up the post of Latin Link Step Co-ordinator at the beginning of January. Pray for him and Jon Jarratt as they work together to plan training and orientation for this year's Step Teams in February.

- Pray also for Jo Hassoun, who moves across from Step to head up Special Programmes, selecting and placing people short-term with projects in Latin America.

16 New hope. In November we prayed for Izaias and Ruth Daniel de Assis in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and their new project for children and families at risk. They praise God that they have almost all the necessary funds and are beginning to level the ground ready to start building – once they get the official go-ahead. They need

two more workers for the existing crèche/playschool, and they're looking for two young people to start a Saturday children's club. They also need a van and driver to transport children from shantytowns further away. Let's pray in faith for Izaias and Ruth as they identify their needs, that they will have everything they need to get the project off to a good start.



Ruth, Izaias and Jonathan

19 New life. You may remember Olga, who we featured in October, the Russian woman who came to Christ in prison in Lima, Peru, and is now on

parole with Jameson family. Paula writes, 'She has quickly become a big sister to Rob, Pat and Joe... She has written to her family and friends in Russia telling them about her new life and asking them to forgive her for some of the things she did in the past. She has also learned to forgive others who had done great damage to her. Praise God for all he is doing in Olga's life.'

22 New worship. In some of the churches in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, there is growing interest in Orlando and Sally-Anne Castro's music classes, designed to train worship groups. Pray that as groups learn to lead worship, relationships with God will deepen and the desire to obey and serve him will become more real.

25 New friends and old. A number of Latin Link members are on home leave in Britain and Ireland this month. This is a good opportunity for them to renew friendships and make new contacts, share what God is doing and bless the churches that support them. Among these are John and Brenda Hart (Ecuador); Phil and Jan Greenwood (Brazil); Ian and Brenda Darke (Costa Rica); Julia Castle, Elmer and Kathryn Rojas, and John and Paula Jameson (Peru); and Douglas and Margaret Edmonds (Bolivia), who are preparing for new roles.

- Pray for them as they carry out sometimes demanding schedules to fit in visits in different areas of the country in a short time.
- Pray also that God will meet individuals' personal needs: for rest and relaxation, for refreshment and restoration.

Pray that as people understand Latin Link better, they will be moved to offer prayer and financial support, and to get involved in local mission as well.

To find out about Latin Link events in your area, please get in touch with James Jones, Communications Administrator, in the London office. Or why not arrange for someone to speak at your church service or event?

Welcome

to Latin Link's
Prayer Guide for January

Resounding gong or clanging cymbal?

Imagine trying to have a serious conversation in a busy street, while loud drums and cymbals are clashing just behind you, a pneumatic drill is hammering away, and the person you're listening to has laryngitis. Difficult? That's normal life for many whose hearing is impaired and who try to communicate in noisy churches, offices and schools.

In our own society we are increasingly sensitive to the needs of people who are deaf or whose hearing is impaired. Technology is advancing, though there is still nothing which restores normal hearing. But in Latin America, the technology is largely absent and few people understand. The deaf are often still marginalised, stigmatised, cruelly misunderstood.

Paola Innocente has a ministry with the deaf at a church in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She trains deaf people as Sunday school teachers, arranges social events, and interprets church services and other meetings in sign language. She is helping to establish a similar ministry in another church. At national



level Paola promotes youth camps which include the deaf, and courses in sign language and interpreting.

Paola's plans for the New Year include a greater emphasis on visiting families with deaf children, to integrate them better into church life, and to train leaders, who work with deaf people, in basic Bible knowledge.

Will you help her with your prayers?

The Prayer Guide is designed for flexible use and the points may be used at any time during the month. For those who like to pray in a systematic way suggested dates are indicated.

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.

- **Latinfile** – our regular publication, with news and stories from Latin America
- **Members' prayer letters** – an insight into their work and country of service, as well as personal and family news – on request
- **Team prayer letters** – the Argentina, Brazil and Peru Teams produce their own regular prayer letters, by email only
- **Prayer groups** – join with others in praying for the work of Latin Link. Ask for your nearest group, or we can help you start your own.
- **Prayer cassettes**, with recorded news and interviews, are produced bi-monthly to provide additional material for prayer groups
- **Prayerline** – call 020 7939 9018 anytime, updated weekly
- **2001 Prayer Calendar**, features all current Latin Link members with a brief description of their country, their team and their work. With pages dated 1 to 31 and prayer points for every day

For further details on any of the above, please telephone or email us.

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



Latin Link
175 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 2AB
tel. 020 7939 9000 fax. 020 7939 9015
email. ukoffice@latinlink.org
internet. <http://www.latinlink.org>

Latin Link is an international fellowship 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.

jan

2001 prayer guide



Latin Link
Enlace Latino