

2001 prayer guide



october headline news think and pray help and hope

'Until Tuesday 11th, the most important thing for me was the next match against Boca Juniors.'

So one of Argentina's soccer heroes, River Plate's goalkeeper Angel David Comizzo, is reported to have said.

Normal life was put into a different perspective by the attack on New York's World Trade Centre. The lives of those directly affected were suspended by grief; and perplexed Americans throughout the USA were asking, 'Why would anyone want to attack America?' We have all been jolted out of our own particular comfort zone into the real world — challenged to think about worlds different to our own, and big issues that usually we prefer not to have to think about. Simple labels like 'terrorism', though convenient, don't seem enough. Think and pray.

The reaction in Latin America, like the rest of the world, was shock and disbelief. Some, like the Jewish community in Buenos Aires, were afraid they might be next. Countries like Peru and Colombia have suffered their own terrorism for years; and some have also borne the brunt of US intervention; others — Argentina and Chile — have seen how past military dictators' war against terrorism brought about the unexplained disappearance of thousands of people. Were they all terrorists? Think and pray.

Mission in a changed world

As we all struggle to find our own response, *Misiones Mundiales*, the national network for world mission in Argentina, has produced a document to declare their solidarity with those who have suffered, and provide their response.

'We condemn without reserve the acts of terrorism of last week and any type of violence. Human life is made and protected by God. We also share in the deep pain of the relatives and friends of those who lost their lives. We declare our solidarity with those who have suffered.'

'We declare that vengeance belongs to God (Deut 32.35) and every attempt at vengeance leads to sin. The Bible calls us not to avenge (Matt 5.39). We therefore call the leaders of all nations — including Muslim leaders — to reflect before using force. *May they act for peace and justice, not in vengeance and pride.*'

A copy of the full document can be obtained from Latin Link, or viewed on our website.

Think and pray

- for those who use terrorism in an attempt to change society
- for dialogue between people in opposition, where none exists
- for economically insecure countries like Argentina, Ecuador and Bolivia for which a crisis in the world economy would be disastrous

From Ecuador

'The attacks occurred early in the morning, when people were still cleaning the building. Many of these jobs are done by immigrants. The official number of Ecuadorians missing in New York is 32. Many will not be recognised because they had false papers. Many were supporting families back in Ecuador. One assistant chef was sending \$300 per month home, twice the average wage here. The family have lost their financial support and their son.'

Janeth Aitken, *Latin Link Ecuador*

'Let us not give up testifying to our faith. Let us console those who suffer. Let us live out this gospel that transforms. Let's dedicate all our efforts to influence our culture for God's glory. And let's wait on God's timing so that he can restore all things.'
Daniel Bianchi, Head of Missions, Baptist Convention, Argentina

Hope for the hopeless — see the *One Minute Window* overleaf

Great news from Yanakihua, southern Peru. Headteacher Rosemary Gibson writes, 'A former pupil, Jenny Menéndez, helped us with the aid distribution on our last visit. Jenny is doing her service year there as a newly qualified dentist. As a result of the visit, she has been able to start children's and young people's meetings on a Saturday, and a Bible study group during the week with seven so far attending. They include the Governor, who is an atheist, but said, 'Maybe you'll convince me', and the local school Head. All the others are also leaders in the town. Please pray the Lord will bless these new groups and from them a church might grow.'

Building for the future. After innumerable difficulties related to buying land in a shantytown, the Free Methodist Church Latin Link's Gwen Griffin attends is just about to purchase two small plots in the São Remo shanty. The aim is to build a multi-purpose building to serve as a church for the already established home Bible study groups; an infant school for the children currently using the precarious community school room; and a community centre. Please pray for all involved in the planning.

Advance from France. Caroline Bruguière, a trained pharmacist from Nîmes flies to Peru for a one-year Stride placement. She will spend part of her time helping Dr John Jameson in the medical centre at Villa María (see *Latinfile*, Spring 2001). 'It's really great to have this first from France,' says Latin Partners' Ray Miller. 'Caroline has already talked about Stride to other French contacts.'

One Minute Window with the Harts at Orphaid, Ecuador

When Sylvia's doctor referred her to Orphaid, his estimate was that she had barely a week to live. That was four months ago.

'I met Sylvia and José Luis in hospital,' says Latin Link's Matt Hart. 'Both were HIV positive and clearly at the Aids stage. Sylvia had just given birth prematurely. Since then both José Luis and the baby, who we looked after, have died.'

Their remaining sons Angel and Jonathan have come to live at Orphaid, which was set up by Matt's parents, John and Brenda, to offer help in just this sort of situation.

Sylvia hasn't long to live. Medicines that could ease her suffering are simply not available and the antiviral drugs that could have extended her life with her children were prohibitively expensive. Sadly, an offer of free treatment for six months came too late, when she was already too ill to be able to start the treatment.

Yet there is hope. Since her arrival at Orphaid, Sylvia has come to a deep and moving faith in Christ. Although she had hardly any strength left in her body she never missed an opportunity to tell visitors how God changed her life.

Please pray for:

- houseparent Sonia, who looks after Angel and Jonathan, as well as another boy, Alfonso, and her own son, Edgar.
- Matt and Tricia Hart as they start a programme of Aids education and prevention in local schools; Matt hopes to form an interdisciplinary team to work alongside him in the community and at Orphaid.
- the child psychologist already working with Orphaid children
- the completion of the clinic started by Step Teams
- John and Brenda Hart, who launch Orphaid as an officially registered charity in Ecuador on the 27th.



Sylvia with Matt

The Prayer Guide is designed for flexible use and the points this month may be used at any time.

diary

1 Senior Step Team leaves for Santo Domingo, Ecuador to work with a church on a building project and in community work. They will also visit the Orphaid project. Unusually this time two of the team members really are 'senior' as they're in their 70s.

1-3 Latin Link Argentina annual team conference at Los Cocos, Córdoba. Please pray for safety in travel and the Lord's guidance as decisions are made.



11 Maureen Galloway returns home to Scotland after 20 years in Peru. Pray for those who will carry on the prison ministry in Chorillos, Lima, that she leaves behind.

19-21 Short-term debriefing conference for this year's returning Steppers and Striders takes place in Kidderminster. Step Co-ordinator Laurence East asks us to pray for a fruitful time of worship to recognise what God has done through short-term mission, and for God's plans for the future of each individual.

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* is 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
- **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 any time, 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 each day

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

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