



Paul Crothers with the teenagers from a recent football event in Recife, Brazil

Other prayer points... April

1 Expo Evangelism event in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This evangelism training event sees *El Alfarero* (The Potter) join with other organisations and churches who work with youth. About 300 people are expected.

1 Inspire! Ireland in Belfast. Pray for a good attendance and an inspiring time!

7-9 Inspire! Scotland in Pitlochry. Pray that the weekend provides plenty of opportunities to be inspired about Latin American mission and to develop contacts.

8 Phil and Carolina Rout have organised leadership training for the leaders in their church in São Paulo, Brazil. Ziel Machado (principal of the college where Phil is studying) will teach about being church in the metropolis. Pray for a good turnout, sharp minds and soft hearts.

22 Louis and Maribel Woodley are helping to lead an Evangelism Workshop in Betanzos, Bolivia.

25-6 May Jeremy Weightman is visiting Striders in Chile and Bolivia. His particular focus is on taking photographs and video footage for new publicity projects.

26 Dani and Flavia Lescano, with Sofi, are part of a team of six from north Argentina who arrive in the UK today to visit British partner churches, for six weeks. Pray for the impact of their testimonies.

27-30 Christopher Wright, Director of Langham Partnership, is visiting Costa Rica. He is speaking at several events and meeting leaders. Pray that his visit encourages preaching and study from the whole Bible.

28-30 Colombia team retreat in Bogotá. Pray for a good time of refreshment and encouragement for the team.

29-30 Louis and Maribel Woodley are in El Alto, Bolivia. They are teaching a Timothy Institute course on 'Stewardship'.

Thank you for praying

Thanks for praying for the Vive Kids' circus training event (4-8 January) in Colombia. Fiona Christie reports: 'We had 137 leaders from 33 of our clubs, and about 330 children. The teaching was on peace, and how to have peace with God and live in peace - poignant in an area that has been particularly affected by the armed conflict.'

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¡Oremos!

Let's pray!

March/April 2017

Welcome to the latest edition of ¡Oremos! ('Let's pray!' in both Spanish and Portuguese). We hope that this resource will inform and inspire your prayers, by focusing on the big picture as well as on individual needs. In this edition we feature Costa Rica and Brazil.

Focus on Costa Rica



Costa Rica

Population 4.6 million

Currency Colón

People Costa Rican 77%,
Mestizo 9%, Other Latin
American 8%, other 6%

Main languages
Spanish

PRAY for the final stages of the publication of the Commentary, and for its distribution.

PRAY that Brenda's students apply what they learn in their situations.

Ray Miller and Bridget Bennett are facilitators of one of their church's three discipleship groups. They are also helping to train mission workers through ProMETA online university, which currently has 40 students from eight countries. Finally, they are involved in community development through a holistic development centre in Los Guido shanty town.

PRAY that their local church grows in faith and passion for mission through the groups.

PRAY for more mentors for ProMETA, and for new training initiatives planned for Bolivia and Peru.

PRAY for God to use the Los Guido centre to impact the community spiritually, economically, and emotionally.

Kayla Chandler is the Short Term Coordinator, coordinating and overseeing Step teams and Striders.

PRAY for the preparations for the Summer Step team (July), and for new contacts in the south.

PRAY for **William Zapata** and **Nadia Hirsig**, with **Jeremy** and **Kenya**, who work with the Amistad Internacional association.

Helping to transform the Church and society:

Ian and Brenda Darke are based in San José. Ian's main activities concern the production of Christian books in Spanish across Latin America, including the *Contemporary Bible Commentary*. Brenda's work is centred on people with disabilities and their inclusion in church life and in society. She is teaching an online degree course, and is involved in *Uno en Cristo* (One in Christ) support group.



Uno en Cristo members with new T-shirts

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Pray for Costa Rica:

- Many people know Costa Rica as a stable and religious country and tourist destination. Yet behind the public face of peace and calm there's a high incidence of family violence and sexual abuse. Materialism (often leading to debt) is also a massive issue.
- Once, evangelical churches were known for their commitment to the Bible and their care for people. Now, many associate 'evangelicals' with a damaging 'prosperity' teaching and a lack (or abuse) of pastoral care.
- Christian groups in state universities tend to be small and struggling, and indicate the state of the Church. Pray for young people to be radical in their love of God.

Other prayer points... March

28 Feb–4 **Mayra Gomez is lecturing in Vanguardia Bible Institute in Puebla, Mexico.** Her topic is the Synoptic Gospels.

1 **The new school year starts at the Shalom Centre, Arequipa, Peru.** Ruth McKee asks for prayer for the children and staff, and especially for the new members of staff.

1 **A four-week Step team from Switzerland arrives in Nicaragua.** They will be working with communities in a northern town called El Jicaró. Pray for good relationships with the community.

1–10 **Louis and Maribel Woodley are teaching Timothy Institute courses in Bogotá, Colombia, and Tabatinga, Brazil.**

7–11 **It's Joel Gonzalez's turn to lecture in Vanguardia Bible Institute, on 'The Doctrine of Salvation and Jesus Christ'.**

10 **A Spring Step team from Britain and Ireland arrives in Colombia.** The team of seven will be based in Medellín and will be helping to plant a new church.

11 **The JEAME street school in São Paulo, Brazil, starts a course for new volunteers today.** Pray for Verna Langrell and the team

as they lead the training, and that a good number of volunteers come along.

12–29 **Martin Haworth is undertaking a tour of churches in north-east Scotland.** Pray that God will use him to inspire many to get involved in mission.

14–18 **A further week at Vanguardia Bible Institute for Joel Gonzalez. He is teaching on 'The Doctrine of Salvation'.**

20 **ProMETA online university begins a new eight-week bimester.** Ray Miller and Bridget Bennett ask for prayer for sustained good numbers of Latin American students and that they are equipped well for their part in God's mission.

24–26 **It's the EJE (Youth Encounter) weekend event in Salta, Argentina.** The young people who attend hear about the love of Jesus and team members are renewed in their faith. Pray for the logistics and as 100-or-so young people meet and share.

30–31 **Peru leadership team meeting.** Following changes to the team, pray that a strong and productive team dynamic is quickly established.

Focus on Brazil



Brazil

Population 195.4 million

Currency Real

People European groups 50%, Mixed race 38%, African 6%, Arab 4%, other 2%

Main language Portuguese

Tackling the many needs of a vast country:

Izaías and Ruth Daniel de Assis, with Jonathan. Izaías is Team Leader. They work in Ceará state, leading Proclamation Church and developing various community projects.

PRAY that through the church's integral mission work, the community sees Jesus.

Phil and Jan Greenwood teach at the Evangelical Missions Centre (CEM) in Viçosa, training Brazilians for mission.

PRAY that the 15 first-year and ten second-year students learn and grow.

Phil and Carolina Rout, with Benjamin and Samuel, are in São Paulo, doing theological study. In their church, they teach, and coordinate the Sunday children's ministry.

'PRAY for Christ-focused, healthy learning and growth as we study and serve.'

Verna Langrell leads the JEAME ministry street school in São Paulo. The team visits young people on the streets every week, and helps them to leave the streets.

PRAY for the team that visits the streets, for joy, protection, and God's grace.

Paul Crothers is based in Recife. 'I work with two ministries, Vale do Senhor and Valuing Lives, which seek to educate, support, and invest in the local communities.'

'PRAY for two new projects – a second football project with young teenage boys in a neighbouring community, and a monthly men's meeting.'

Tim and Hannah Flatman 'serve in a local Anglican church, discipling and training young people. We also assist CADI Gaibu, an NGO that walks alongside vulnerable children and their families.'

'PRAY as we begin to transition into working with quilombola communities (which trace their descent from African ancestors who resisted slavery).'

PRAY also for **Kat Duncan**, who recently completed her *Stride* and is marrying **Ricardo** (from Brazil) on 29 April; and **Dan and Marcia Lawrance**, assisting mission through air transportation in the Amazon region.



Reaching out on the streets

Pray for Brazil:

- Michel Temer took over the Presidency after Dilma Rousseff's impeachment last year. Pray that he leads with wisdom and integrity.
- Investigations into corruption at the highest levels of government and industry have shaken the country. Pray for justice to be done, and that honesty and service become defining values.
- Pray that God would raise up church leaders who will champion the cause of the gospel, social justice, and mission, in Brazil and the wider world.