

# MAGAZINE DEC 2009/JAN 2010

**Regular Services 2010: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday : 10 am:** Junior Church meets in the Yo-Yo hut and the children come to join their parents for Communion

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday : 5 pm:** Family Communion Service



## NEW SUNDAYS NEW TIMES!!!!!!

As from January 2010, we shall be holding our regular services as shown in the box above. ie for January:

**Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am**

**Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**

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### DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

**CAROL SERVICE: SUNDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**

**BIBLE STUDY at Mieke and Roy's flat, 8 pm:**

Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday January 19<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup>

**DEBATE AT EIGHT:** Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup> at Mieke and Roy's flat, 8 pm

Informal Communion at Mieke and Roy's flat: Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm

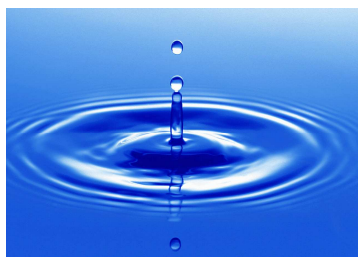
**NO SERVICE ON DECEMBER 27th**

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From Roy and Mieke

Anyone who has been in the church over the last few months cannot have missed the growing size and growing excitement about what the Lord is doing amongst us. If the Junior Church continues to increase in size, we **MUST** get some more helpers involved to teach and to act as assistants at least once every two months. What a great problem to have!!!

Only a few months ago a lady approached me to say that she wanted to understand about the teachings of Christianity and after she had been to the Alpha course for a few weeks she told us that she had committed her life to Jesus Christ...



Sonya's baptism took place on the last Sunday of November and was a time of wonder and joy for all of us. For Mieke and I it really was the moment when we realised why the Lord had asked us to come to Neuchâtel, this is a lovely example of what I said in last month's magazine about 'Come Grow and Go', as Sonya will be returning to the U.S.A with her husband and children soon after Christmas.

The Alpha course has stimulated a lot of people and there have been several requests to start an evening course. We would be happy to arrange this in the New Year, so if you are interested in coming to a 12 week course meeting most weeks (allowing for school holidays), then please contact me and we will arrange a suitable evening. It means that we shall follow the Nicky Gumbel book 'Questions of Life' and have an open and wide ranging discussion about the issues raised week by week of course with biscuits and coffee etc!!



At our last Church Council meeting, we received the two reports we had commissioned from Jon Bright and Bill Packer concerning the future plans for the church. These will be considered in detail by the Council at its meeting in early December and then be made available to the whole church for wider discussion. One of the issues that they raise is the possibility of the church funding what is called 'House for Duty' so that when we move on, expire or quietly slip away, there will be funds to encourage a retired minister to come to and live in Neuchâtel and so continue ministry here "sur place".

Big hopes and expectations, but is that what the Lord is asking of us? Pray hard about it and when you have finished continue to pray.

THANKS !      THANKS !      **THANKS !.....**

...to all who contributed to the wonderful success of the Harvest Festival on October 25th. The treasurer reported that we raised over 2100 francs for Beryl Baker in Paraguay.

You may have heard that an English nurse, Wendy Power, has gone to the Chaco for several months with a view to possibly working there with Beryl permanently. She sends a monthly news letter with plenty of photos giving updates of their growing collaboration. It gives a very good insight into how our gifts are used and how necessary they are. If you would like to receive these letters, you can sign up for them on Wendy's website at [www.wendypower.org.uk](http://www.wendypower.org.uk)

## WENDY'S FIRST NEWSLETTER

*As a first letter from the Chaco there's lots of description of my initial impressions- I hope you will think it worth reading through. I make no promises my next one will be any shorter (!) but thanks for sharing in this work with me and if you are praying, please pray for the people here- truly, no changes occur quickly or without God breaking through.*

*Although I send this letter whilst back in Asuncion for a few days, I am actually writing whilst sitting in the air conditioned peace of Beryl's house whilst a hot wind batters the doors and shutters around the house. Outside it is 40 degrees and the wind makes it seem hotter still. B's many dogs lie about the house losing their heat to the stone floors- here the coolest place is the tiled bathroom and sometimes I wish I too could lie there. Slowly I am getting used to the humid heat and am accepting it is normal to feel wet with sweat, to slow down to manage tasks successfully, to drink lots and lots of water. My first two weeks here have been dominated by adjusting to the very changeable weather conditions- frequently jumping day to day in temperature from mid twenties to mid forties.*

*It's difficult to know how to manage this and I feel I can't read the weather at all. There have been cold days too so I still sometimes need a sweater but then feel ridiculous when it turns out to be a scorcher!*

*I have had a wonderful welcome from many Paraguayans and Indians here- people are very friendly and warm and that certainly helps me feel more relaxed.*

*The Chaco is an amazing place- full of beauty and hardness. The landscape, bird and wildlife are works wondrous to see. But at present and for many previous months, the land has been dry as dry- we pray for rain here. Off the main highway, the dirt roads are wide and dusty, with huge gouged holes that tell a story of when water came here. These roads pass either through the dense trees and undergrowth or like scars through many acres of decimated barren land which has been deforested.*

*For those here living with so little of food and shelter, it is a place to struggle to survive- that includes all forms of life. So far I have only seen small bugs and creatures and lots of amazing birds big and small- there are lots of cardinals here. I am still in some anticipation of excitement/dread to see such things as a tarantula or anaconda.*

*I work with B each day- usually based at the clinic which is just next door to her house, but also making frequent trips into the Indian colonies; both closer and further afield. I love this most of all- to meet patients in their homes and land, bringing hope and healing to their houses.*

*Patients present with many different conditions- for those of you reading this with medical heads, lots of TB (including one very advanced skin growth), parasites (ascaris), especially amongst the kids.*

*There are also the usual flu and colds, minor traumas and bad teeth- B gave me my first teeth pulling lesson on Thursday; I am in eager anticipation of the next presentation to have a go!! One particular family touched my heart this week- an Indian (indigenous) lady- E, who is about*

28, with 6 children from 11 years to 2 months, newly diagnosed with pulmonary TB. Her husband left her when she was pregnant with her last child. The house is sheets of plastic.

The nearest community health worker, Norma, collects some money from the government to help them, but the poverty is heart-breaking. This is just one story- there are countless more. Norma herself works to give out basic health advice and support to people but has received no wage for over 8 months and things are getting tough. Please pray for her as this week she tries to deal with the local government to claim her wage.

I live on the same ranch, but am over the road from B which allows for some space and retreat- for both B and I. Although I am an animal lover, nine dogs and four cats can get a bit much! The only downside is I have no air conditioning, but I only have to share the bathroom.

B and I are settling well into working relationship and friendship. I have been hugely blessed by B's openness to me to share her world so intensely. You can imagine I am full of questions and observations as I adapt to life here and her patience with me is fantastic. She is teaching me about many things aside from dentistry, including doing TB slides, patient examination (chest and abdomen), prescribing, midwifery skills and more.

The timetable is different mainly for the heat early starts (breakfast before 7), stopping for lunch 12 ish and early to sleep (usually around 9-10), although there's huge flexibility depending upon patient demand. B and I take turns to cook which works well. I think I might hone my bread making skills whilst here in Paraguay!

I am learning about praying more in the moment- that is trying to seek God's leading more consciously, before making even the small decisions. I miss time to chat with friends, other than B that is. It is one of the hard things about working here- there is a big gap of wealth and education between me and many other people here in the Chaco. Friendships would appear hard to make and sustain.

This morning we went to the local church in Rio Verde, the nearest town. It was good to meet people and share fellowship with other Christians there.

May the Lord also guide your steps and direct you to know his unfailing love for you.

Wendy Power (October 09)