

Global Affairs Report 2007/8

The Global Affairs Group has met about every 7 to 8 weeks for prayer and updates on our overseas missionary links.

During the past year it has been lovely to see some of them in Aldridge for a time of rest and recuperation. This has given us a chance, as a Church family, to hear about their work first hand. We welcomed Terry and Simone early in 2007, June Hathersmith who came to share in our 750 birthday celebrations and Kathy and Paul Middleton and Lee and Becky who visited Aldridge last Summer. More recently we had weekend visit from John and Judie Ellison who have now returned to live in the UK following John's retirement as Bishop of Paraguay. We look forward to seeing Hilary and Raza later this year.

Operation South America is now a registered charity in its own right and is receiving income from the Church to support the work in the village of Quiquiho in eastern Paraguay. More detail is given in a separate report.

During February a visit was made to Aldridge by Dr. Rebecca, an Indonesian woman imprisoned for organizing a Sunday school in her home village. A dramatized account of her imprisonment was moving and challenging. Thank you to Open Door for giving us the opportunity to meet her.

Nathan and Jen Gregory are due home this summer from Uganda. Just before Easter, John Gilbert visited them on his way to Sudan for a medical mission fact finding trip. A video clip of his visit to Nathan and Jen is on the Church web site. Other Church members visited our Missionary links with the Cook family and Helen Gilbert visiting China over Easter. Lee and Becky will also be returning home in the Summer. Both Nathan and Lee are beginning ministry training in the Autumn. Jenny Cornfield has visited Egypt as part of her work with the persecuted Church.

Please continue to pray for all our overseas missionary links. Without a doubt prayer makes all the difference to the work they are doing. They all tell of how, when things are hard and home is along way away our prayerful support makes the difference. Especially remember June Hathersmith recovering from major surgery on her arm.

Thanks to all the lovely members of the group for their support.

Lynne Trew and Jen Ford.