



Catherine Le Tissier and Nick Drayson

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Contact details:
catleti@gmail.com
nicobispo@gmail.com



Location: Argentina



What we do: Nick was until recently Primate of the Province of South America and Bishop of Northern Argentina. Catherine coordinated the AMARE women's organisation across the Province.

Dear Friends,

We had known for some time that our ministry in South America was coming to an end. But we weren't expecting it to end the way it did. Nick's heart surgery in February meant that he spent our last months in Argentina on sick leave, and most of the packing and farewells were dealt with by Catherine. But we are so grateful to be alive and for the support of family, friends and colleagues.

We travelled to the UK in June, and continue to concentrate on convalescence as we enjoy time with family. Please pray for proper rest and recuperation for us both. Hopefully Nick will be stronger by September, and able to visit churches and some of the faithful friends who have prayed for us over the years. Some of you will want to continue to support those we have been working with and who continue to serve their communities. Others may want to sign off and focus on other areas of mission. To all of you, a huge thanks!

As we look back on South America, and the privilege of living and working there, we reflect on what God has been doing in so many different ways. We can echo Psalm 126: "The Lord has done great things for us and we are glad." There have been dreams and tears, seed sown and sheaves harvested, laughter and shouts of joy!

For the past 14 years we have had the task of overseeing and leading a vast, complicated diocese, which today consists of 186 churches, two assistant bishops and at least 200 other leaders. These are mainly indigenous (Chorote, Wichí and Toba) hunter-gatherers, who live in or near the Chaco Forest and often on the margins of Argentine society. During that time AMARE was created, and has become a women's movement throughout South America, while remaining strong in the Chaco area of our diocese.

Two years ago Nick also became Primate, which meant exercising leadership in Anglican churches throughout South America and more widely. Generally speaking, Nick being a bishop, and Catherine heading up a movement linked to Mothers' Union, has led to a major involvement in working groups in the wider Anglican Communion. This has been a rich experience, if often a bit stressful, and has allowed us to travel widely, which has been mostly a delight!

A major part of our ministry over these years has been to encourage self-determination and appropriate models of leadership, administration and training, both in the church and more widely, as communities face the degradation of their environment and abuses of their rights.



Saying farewell in Juárez

Support Catherine Le Tissier and Nick Drayson:
churchmissionsociety.org/drayson

**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Building on the work of many years, we have focused on language and translation, especially of the Bible, in various local languages and dialects. Also, on the priority of national leadership, both indigenous and European descendant.

A particular area of commitment over recent years has been the development of a resource centre and community in the mission compound where we lived in Juárez. A key person in this has been Mirna Paulo, who is also widely in demand as a spokesperson for the Indigenous Mission Hub together with colleagues from other indigenous groups.

Daniel Lescano, from Salta, was appointed Vicar General last year and has taken a huge interest in developing the sustainability of the church's wider ministry throughout the area. His efforts have really come into their own with Nick being out of action, and now with us leaving.

We are excited to see national leadership taking responsibility at every level, both local (indigenous and Spanish speaking) and more widely in the Province of South America. We are also thrilled that women's ministry has been put firmly on the map, and many women empowered in their contexts. Please pray for our friends and colleagues in Northern Argentina, especially leaders adjusting to new roles in AMARE and other organisations. Pray for Bishops Crisanto and Mateo, key people like Mirna and Daniel, and others developing strategies for the future in the diocese. Please pray also for national leadership and training in the Province of South America, especially Acting Primate Brian Williams.

We are disappointed that more could not be done in relation to two areas that we are passionate about: intentional discipleship and creation care. These seem to be fundamental priorities and yet so hard to get hold of in practical terms.

We have so many memories of working alongside gifted and much-loved colleagues and friends, not only during the past 14 years, but in some cases going back to previous periods of service in the diocese totalling 26 years of the past 50! We are so grateful for the privilege of "fellowship in the gospel".

And what happens now? After a welcome rest and a continuing recuperation, with family in the UK and Channel Islands, and some farewell visits to supporting churches, we are looking at the possibility of helping out in a local church in return for accommodation, which will allow us to stay a bit longer near family while we decide where to retire to. We look forward to telling you more about this shortly – please pray for clear guidance in this.

And finally, family news: our siblings, who are getting older and some have health issues, live in Guernsey and the south of England, as do most of their offspring. It is lovely to reconnect with them. Please pray for good communication as we continue to reconnect.

Our son Sam lives in Jersey, where he works in tech support at Highlands College, and is also starting a computing degree there. His wife Sally is children and family's worker at St Ouen's Church. Merida (4) will shortly join Cassian (6) at school. They love island life!

Our daughter Stefi lives in Bradford and works as a drama therapist for CAMHS (Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service). Her husband Rhys has just qualified as a physiotherapist, and is applying for jobs. He plays lots of rugby!

We are glad and grateful to be reunited with all of them!

Thanks for your prayers. Our love to you all,

Nick and Catherine



Photos from top to bottom: South American bishops and wives; Daniel Lescano with Nick; Mirna Paulo; Welcomed back by family



Going further with Church Mission Society

Adelante: Saturday 23 September 2023. A hybrid event – in-person and online – to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante

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