

Paul's Page

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Finding my feet

The way that Wilma described my situation is "plenty of work, just no employment." So what am I doing? I have discovered that when people find out that you have more free time (having been made redundant in October 2014), they immediately find things for you to do. This DD is dedicated to bringing you up to date with my activities and opportunities.

New Roles within Latin Link

During these last few months I have had conversations with Alan Tower, the International Team Leader for Latin Link about how I could help Latin Link. Even when I was working for All Nations, I still remained a member of the Fellowship and want to be of service somehow. We established two roles for me within Latin Link International. The first is "Life-Long Learning Coordinator". In this role I will encourage and provide information resources for all Latin Link members in their on-going personal and professional development. This training could be theological, mission, or even management.

The second role has been given the grand title of "Theological Consultant"! This, again, is a role facilitating and resourcing Latin Link members but specifically in helping them to think theologically. For me, theology is not an academic subject but a way of approaching Christian life and mission. Harry Blamires called this "thinking Christianly". I am currently writing an article to send to all Latin Link members to explain what I mean by *theology* and the way I set out to do theology. This role also includes representing LL at various churches and conferences.

Preaching

For example, in the past six months I have preached 13 times at 4 different churches! Including twice in Spanish in Argentina. I have preached from John's gospel, the book of Acts, Paul's letter to the Romans, his letter to the Philippians and the Ephesians, and, oh yes, the Colossians and finally the book of Daniel. This has been a lot of work because the vast majority of these sermons I have had to prepare from scratch. It has been, however, a real joy to be able to really delve into God's word. It makes me realize the preacher's danger of asking the question, "what can I say from this chapter" rather than the important question, "what does this passage say"?



Speaking

There also have been opportunities for me to attend and speak at conferences. Now, I know this doesn't sound interesting but I have met many new people in the mission world whom I wouldn't have met otherwise. I was helped (financially) to go to conference in Romania and from that conference I was asked to give a paper at a Conference in Vienna. Both of these were reflecting upon the mission of the European Churches 25 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989). The paper at the Vienna conference compared the Latin American churches' mission with that of the Central and Eastern European churches' mission. It was fascinating to observe

the similarities between the two sets of churches, especially in regard to outside “help” from the mission movements from W. Europe and especially N. America. This has also been, for me, a joy as, apart from meeting many new people, it also gives me an opportunity to use what I have been teaching in Latin America and All Nations, to fly the flag for Integral Mission, and to have wider influence in the mission world.

Writing

I’ve been asked to join the Editorial Board of the *New Urban World* journal which has contributors from all over the world. We find it difficult to find a time when we can have a Skype meeting. It is early morning in Australia, late evening in the UK and midafternoon in Texas! This quote from the website explains (<http://newurbanworld.org/>), “New Urban World is the official journal of the International Society for Urban Mission. This magazine-style journal aims to amplify voices for urban Christian discipleship and transformation in cities with the broader Church and society.” I will be guest editing their November edition, whose theme will be “Shalom”, which will emerge from the Lima conference of Micah Global in September of this year.

Linked to this I have also been asked to be part of the “Panel of Reference” for Micah Global (see their website for details <http://www.micahnetwork.org/mission>), which is an advisory group made up of various mission leaders and theologians from around the Majority world. This is a great honour for me as other on the panel very well-known leaders.

Supervising

Finally, I may be accepted as a supervisor for the University of South Africa (UNISA). They need supervisors who know Spanish and the Latin American church scene. This will be a part time job for me that I hope will develop into something sustainable. In this regard I have just sent off an article to *Missionalia*, the mission journal of UNISA; I am hoping that it will be accepted, this will also help financially.

Another supervising role emerged from a contact in Cambridge, where the Theological Federation, a theological college of Cambridge University, also want supervisors who specialize in Latin American Church and theology. This is in its early stages but would also be a great opportunity to develop contacts in the theological and mission world.

So what is the difference between a role and a job?

A job pays you, but you pay to do a role!

At least that is the case in the missions world. None of the above work pays me a salary.

So, I need to raise support to do these roles. We aren’t looking to raise much; LL reckons this will only take up one day a week, so I’m hoping to raise support to cover one day’s pay, NI, pension, LL fee etc. But really to do the job I need to raise money for ministry to pay for the travel involved. We reckon on about £3000/year for travel, but aren’t really sure yet, but this will let me represent LL at two international conferences per year and travel around the UK. Raising the ministry costs is my first priority, after that is raised I’ll get paid! So if you can help please go to the ‘Support Paul’ instructions in the yellow column or phone LL - 0118 957 7100. Some gifts have been received which we have put towards the Lima conference but £400 is still needed just for that one.

Wilma is also doing various fund raising things, right now potting up planters to sell on Thursday at the Multicultural Night at college, as well as advocating Solar Panels to earn commission, so do call her if you are interested.

Thank you.

Wilma's Page

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Argentina

As you probably know, during April and May we spent three and a half weeks in Argentina. We arrived to lovely warm sunshine. This was my long awaited



A roadside picnic with Sandra and Priscilla in Tandil

sabbatical when I aimed to do some research on Pentecostalism and find out why people leave the P church. I did about 15 interviews, including two pastors, two sociologists and about ten ex-Pentecostals. Paul did quite a bit of teaching and preaching which all seemed to be crowded into a few intensive days.

Of course we also caught up with many friends and former colleagues and ate too

much meat! But all delicious and so generously provided. The saddest part of the trip was seeing our former church reduced to about 20 and sharing the pain of the Padilla family trying to build it up again.

Latin Partners

During this time off college I also had the Latin Partners retreat. It was lovely! We went to Leominster near Hereford, a part of England I didn't know, and it is very beautiful. We had a great time together, everyone mucked in to cook and wash dishes, and we enjoyed the ministry of a pastor from Venezuela, who had studied at the IBBA in Buenos Aires, where we used to teach. Sadly **Marion** was not able to join us as her dad died the day the retreat started.

Some of our LP striders are coming to an end of their placements. **Pamela** has done great in Norwich with Friends Intl and needs guidance for her next step.

Jax has almost finished her year at Ballyliney, she loved it and wants to stay in N.I. So we need guidance for her too, what is the way forward now? **Flor** did come and is in a church in Harrogate. They love her and even paid for her to join their trip to Israel, so realising her long term dream. Sadly we were not able to find a room in the Reading area for **Wilson and Manju** so they took up a placement within Latin America. A few others are in the pipeline and we look forward to welcoming them early next year.

I'm already back at college to help with end of year marking and other more fun activities. Thursday 18th is Multicultural Evening, an open event that you are welcome to attend.



Jax

PRAISE

For a great trip to Argentina, and all the funds to pay for it.

For Pamela, Jax and Flor all doing well.

PRAYER

For guidance for Pamela and Jax as well as us.

As a good friend put it, may the Lord open a door for Paul into fruitful and joyful ministry.

For funding for Paul's new role in LL.

SUPPORT PAUL

Go to the Latin Link website and click on "Donate Now", then click on the box that says "where most needed" click on "support a person" then lots of names will appear, we are near the bottom.

<https://www.latinlink.org.uk/how-can-i-give/donate?frequency=single¤cy=GBP&country=GB&restriction=Unrestricted>

Thank you

For your continued giving and praying. We appreciate it more than ever.

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