

Dear friends

We have now served with CMS (previously SAMS) for the past 22 years. We arrived in Argentina in 1999, on the eve of our youngest daughter's first birthday, and as we write these lines, she is preparing her final exams before graduating as a vet. Our eldest two are both professionally qualified and working.

We never imagined our kids would all end up graduating in Argentina. Indeed, there is little resemblance between how we imagined things would work out when we first moved here and what has occurred over the past two decades. There have been frustrations, but as we look back it is gratifying to see how God has enabled us to contribute significantly towards the recognition of indigenous land rights and the protection of Argentina's dry tropical forests.

It has also been rewarding for Andrew to have been able to share his technical skills to support Compassion International's child and youth development ministry. Under a secondment agreement with CMS, Andrew has helped Compassion research and evaluate the effectiveness of its child and youth development programs around the world.

As our children transition into their adult lives, we sense it is the right season for us to review the direction of our ministry. We are keen to share the experience and connections we have developed around creation care ministry with the wider global church. It is for this reason that Andrew has accepted a full-time appointment with Compassion International, to create and lead an Environmental Stewardship and Creation Care team, responsible for embedding environmental stewardship and climate change adaptation into their global program.

As part of this change, we will become CMS mission associates, which will allow us to retain a formal link with CMS, while giving Andrew the possibility of engaging full-time with Compassion. This arrangement will allow us to continue with our employment and pension arrangements in the UK.

Our work in Argentina will be continued through Fundación Refugio, which is the registered charity we created some years ago. We will continue to serve on the charity's board for the foreseeable future. This arrangement will allow us to engage others in furthering the work we will continue to do in relation to creation care, especially in curbing deforestation.

We aim to complete the transition within CMS to becoming CMS mission associates by the end of August. During that time, we will be happy to touch base with you if you require any further information of the outlined changes. In the meantime, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for all the prayerful support you have provided for us over the past years.

CMS has and continues to be instrumental in facilitating strategic and pioneering mission initiatives, such as creation care. We would ask that you consider continuing to support CMS in enabling others to undertake this type of work. We firmly believe these partnerships reflect the body of Christ at work in the world.

We would personally value your continued prayer for our work and our children. We will continue to publish Land for Life circulars and will be shortly inviting you to renew or unsubscribe from these.

We end these lines by reiterating our deepfelt gratitude for the prayerful support you have given to us and CMS over the years. Please know this has been essential in empowering us to undertake what we believed God has called us to do in His service.

Yours in Christ

Andrew and Maria Leake