

## Missional Hub: Urban Church Plant San Pablo

Salta, often called “Salta the Beautiful,” is a city of roughly 630,000 inhabitants in northern Argentina, nestled at the foothills of the Andes. Founded in 1582, it is renowned for its architecture, vibrant plazas, and cobblestone streets. The city serves as a cultural and economic hub of the region, blending traditional Andean customs with modern Argentine life. Surrounded by dramatic landscapes such as rugged mountains, red rock valleys, and fertile vineyards, Salta is also a gateway to natural wonders such as the Train to the Clouds (Tren a las Nubes).

However, on the edge of Salta, the city’s fine architecture and vibrant plazas give way to a very different reality. Here, in the outskirts of the city, St Paul’s (San Pablo) Anglican Church is located in a neighbourhood marked by hardship and struggle. The barrio tells a story familiar to many marginalised communities as families live in fragile, overcrowded homes, children grow up quickly, and daily life is shaped by the presence of drugs, crime, and limited opportunities. Yet even amid these challenges, life endures as neighbours care for one another, children play in the streets, and simple acts of generosity weave hope into the fabric of the community. In the midst of it all, St Paul’s offers a sanctuary of friendship and hope to everyone who comes through its doors. Although the church currently has no minister, there is great anticipation for a new leader to arrive, someone who will bring leadership and practical support to the small congregation eager to grow. Plans are underway for St Paul’s to be designated as a missional hub within the diocese’s urban strategy, strengthening its capacity to reach the surrounding community as it seeks to proclaim that the hope found in Christ is not abstract or far away. It is tangible, living, and real in the midst of adversity.

*“Ministry in difficulty is a quiet declaration that God’s kingdom is not limited by circumstance.”*