



Agua de Vida

Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay

The Periodic Newsletter of Ed & Linda Baker, Missionaries to Paraguay, SA

Issue No. 11

August 14, 2005

It's been over a year since we have written a "snail mail" newsletter – it seems that we have been focusing all of our efforts on our internet-based updates. If you are not on our e-mail mailing list and would like to be added – please contact us at edlindabaker@yahoo.com.

As usual, we have been quite busy since our last newsletter. We drilled several wells during the last half of 2004 and then went to the US on a "mini-furlough". We completed our 4th year of service on our 5 year term in December 2004 and would normally spend the next 12 months on furlough in the States. However, we were able to shorten our "homeland commitments" to 4 months and are now back in Paraguay starting our 2nd five-year term – how time flies!

While we were in the States we visited all of the churches that support us and had a wonderful time catching up with family and friends. We were able to tell our "story" of what the Lord is doing in Paraguay and had opportunities to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in English (rather than Spanish) – what a treat! Thank you all for your wonderful hospitality – we both gained several pounds from all the good food.

Our Drilling Ministry – As we mentioned, we were able to drill several wells in 2004 before we went on furlough. First we returned to the Asunción area to drill a well at the Methodist Bible Institute. The Institute is a key part of the advancement of God's Kingdom in Paraguay – our future Pastors receive 3 years of training here before going out to lead one of our growing number of local churches.

This well was a real challenge – we drilled it 4 times! But at last we finally succeeded.



Another well was at the Guaraní Indian reservation at Y'Apy. WOW – what an eye opener this project was. We were able to see the real needs of Paraguay – and to see the faith and love of a strong group of Christian believers there. If the "poor shall inherit the Kingdom", then these people will be in charge! We actually combined the



funds from two projects in order to allow us to build all of the sanitation facilities needed – three bathroom facilities, a 3-sink wash station and spigots everywhere! If you have internet access, you can see more photos of "life on the reservation" at our website www.aguadevida.org.

YES – I would like to make a financial contribution to your ministry:

Members of Cannon UMC can simply place this slip in the offering plate with a contribution. Others can mail the slip and the contribution to:

The Mission Society for United Methodist
P. O. Box 922637
Norcross, Georgia 30092-2637
770.446.1381

Please check applicable box:

- One time contribution - undesignated
- As God provides, regular gift of \$ _____
monthly – quarterly – other _____
- Designate to Well Drilling Fund



Please mark checks for: "Ed & Linda Baker Support"

We also drilled wells at the Agricultural Technical Center and at the Primera Linea Methodist Church.

Our Other Jobs – Linda stayed busy with her activities as local Secretary and National Treasurer of the Women’s Federation. The 2004 National Women’s Conference was held at our Church Camp and was attended by over 100 women! As usual, we were involved in transportation of the ladies from the North District.

We were also involved in a baptism for new believers from several churches. It was a wonderful time of music and celebration as 11 people made their public proclamation of accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We added another church to our North District, Oga Lata is church #9.



Our Other Activities – TEAMS!!!! In June and July of 2005 we were blessed with mission teams from 5 of our supporting churches – The Memorial UMC in Fernandina Beach, FL; Cannon UMC and Snellville FUMC in Snellville, GA; Duluth FUMC in Duluth, GA; and Dalton FUMC in Dalton, GA. It is so nice to have folks from “back home” come visit and participate in our ministry. This really “recharges our batteries”! The first group of teams worked at the Susannah Wesley School in Quinta Linea.



The second group of teams worked at the Agricultural Technical Center. The plumbing was completed, which also resulted in hooking up two neighboring families with running water – what a blessing! The last team included two professional carpenters who were put to work helping build the roof on the Center – the Paraguayan carpenters learned a lot watching and helping.

Franklin Graham Crusade – Festival of Hope
In May, 2005, Franklin Graham came to Paraguay. Over 180,000 people attended the 3 day event, 35 from our district. We are looking forward to a new spiritual awakening here in Paraguay.

Cannon UMC – Our home church in Snellville, Georgia, is responsible for sending out these Newsletters – THANKS!

Prayer Requests

- = Our greatest request is that you pray for us to learn Guaraní, the mother language of our region.
- = Safety as we travel around the country on poor roads.

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Yours in Christ- Ed and Linda Baker

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