

February, 2002

Saludos a Equipo de Misiones:

For these reports, we will reflect on our activities for the previous month, and project what our activities will be for the current month. As such, here comes February:

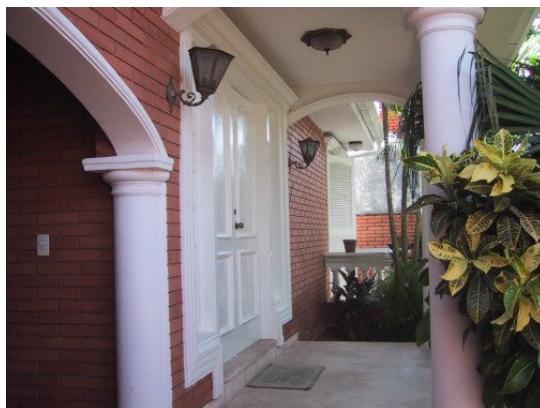
We accomplished a lot of paper work in February. We have a Professional B driver's license, which will allow us to drive a 6 ton truck (kind of like a Commercial Drivers License); we registered with the American Embassy; we started our paper work for processing our visas; we rented a house; and we were privileged to see Marcos Witt (a VERY popular Spanish Christian rock singer).

We also got to experience being on the receiving end of a work team. This month the church had 5 separate teams traveling or working in Paraguay. Each team needs a vehicle, driver, and translator at all times. Plus, people to pick up the team and return the team to the airport. This calls for lots of coordination among the missionaries here, as each team has special needs. We worked as chief cook, bottle washer, translator, and driver with a team from NC (17 folks), headed by Austin Boggan, a retired missionary with MSUM. This team built a dormitory at the site which will become a Methodist camp. Lots of work, lots of fun, lots of HEAT.

We ended our 7 days of HARD work with a retreat with the MSUM team who were visiting work sites here in Paraguay. With us from the home office were Phil & Sue Granger, Frank Decker, and Jim Tuttle. All the MSUM missionaries assigned to Paraguay plus our church's President and wife, Pablo and Claudette Mora, attended a 1 day retreat in Caagwazu. We had good fellowship, good discussions, good food, plus a swimming pool!!!! What a treat in 100+ temperatures!

March has started busy too. ILI (International Leadership Institute) is having a conference here in Asuncion March 12-18, 2002. The conference will be lead by Norival Trindade, Jr.; Al Vom Steeg; Wes Griffin; Norival Trindade, Sr.; plus 4 Paraguayan speakers. We have been preparing the logistics for the conference all week, looking forward to seeing Al and the other Atlanta folks tomorrow. Getting notebooks translated, formatted, printed, copied here in Paraguay has been an experience in patience! Nothing is easy to find or easy to do. But, the Lord willing, we will have a successful conference.

Here is a photo of our truck – it's been repainted and piece-by-piece rebuilt. Also, a photo of our house.



Please keep us in your prayers and we will update you again in April – pray for cooler weather!

In His Service,
Linda & Ed Baker