



Agua de Vida

Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay

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

Issue No. 1

August 28, 2000

We've been approved!!!

The Mission Society for United Methodists has approved us as missionaries to do water projects in Paraguay, South America. God planted the seed for us to become missionaries 15 years ago. It has taken a while to flourish, but as we all know, God's timing is not our timing. We greatly appreciate all your prayers and support that have helped us along to this point.

We have been approved as "short term" missionaries for a period of two years, and we have applied for approval for a 5-year term. However, the "career" missionary status of 5 years can only be approved by the full Board of Directors, which will meet in October. So we still need your prayers and support. With the approval complete for the short-term status, we can go ahead and start our training and raising our support.

Where do we go from here?

Although we first thought about going directly to Honduras, we decided to go to one of the Mission Society's established fields for our first term for "on the job training". This led to deciding to assist the existing team in Paraguay who are working with the Evangelical Methodist Community, a relatively new church. The team is involved in a wide variety of ministries and our water projects will fit in very well.

We have recently completed a month long course entitled Cultural and Language Learning at the Missionary Training Institute in Colorado Springs. It was a truly wonderful experience where we worked with over 25 other missionaries and their children going onto fields all over the world. God is working in wondrous ways in the lives of His people.



Language training (Spanish) will be our major effort before going onto the field. We will be starting at the Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica January 2, 2001. We will attend the school for 8 to 12 months, depending on how much of our prior Spanish we remember when we get there.

In the mean time we have been dealing with a number of details such as selling the big house that we raised the family in, and storing all our "stuff" that we are not selling or passing on to family. In addition, we recently led two teams of short-term missionaries to Honduras from our church, Cannon United Methodist. We have decided to keep a residence in the Atlanta area, but it is not yet complete. We are currently staying at the Cherub House, which has been graciously provided by Cannon United Methodist.

Now that we are approved, we have to itinerate (developing our support) by speaking at churches and other groups. This gives us the chance to tell our story and to express the need for the world to receive the good news of Jesus Christ and to have the advantage of clean water. If your church or group would like for us to make a presentation, please contact us (see below).

We hope to be in Paraguay by the fall of 2001 or winter of 2002, as long as we have our support team and training goes as planned. Of course, that's referring to our plans – we are praying that they fit into God's plans as well. If not, He will let us know!

What will be our ministry?

Jesus commands us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to

obey what he taught his disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). His ministry is the best model for fulfilling this commandment that we have. Jesus met people in their places of need. He cured the sick, then told them the good news. Using this model, we will use the gift of clean water to open the hearts of those in need, and thereby giving us an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with them.

In addition to the Mission Society for United Methodists (our "sending agency"), we will also be working with Lifewater International, a group of Christian water resource professionals for technical support and to help us identify areas of need. Water wells and other water projects can be very beneficial in church planting activities. We will work through local church leaders and other organizations to identify areas of need and use our skills and God's grace to bring the gift of clean water and share the Gospel to the people.

What help do we need?

We are in need of PARTNERS to help us establish this ministry and to keep it successful. Listed below are the areas in which we need your support.

PRAYERS - Most of all we need your prayers and moral support. We need your prayers for patience, perseverance and wisdom. It will take a lot longer for us to get on the field than we initially thought, but we realize that this is part of the process.

MONTHLY SUPPORT - Next, we need your financial support. We must have all of our funds committed for our 5-year term before we leave for the field. Our budget is \$2,500 per month for our ministry expenses. This does not include drilling equipment, or a truck to carry the drill rig and materials to the villages. We are looking for 100 partners who are willing to make \$25 monthly donations. All donations should be made to the Mission Society at the address

shown below, marked for Ed & Linda Baker Support and are totally tax deductible.

LAUNCHING FUNDS – There are also a number of costs that will be incurred before we get onto the field. These include the month long orientation course in Colorado, language training in Costa Rica, the cost of shipping our belongings to Paraguay, our initial transportation to the field, and other miscellaneous expenses. Our launching funds are estimated to be about \$13,000.

DRILLING RIG – We need to purchase a specialized drill rig made for Lifewater International designed for use in remote villages. The cost of the drill rig, including spare parts and shipping is about \$8,000.

WORK TRUCK – The drilling equipment that we will use is relatively large, and weighs almost 1,000 pounds. Therefore, we need a heavy duty, 4-wheel drive truck with a diesel engine (the predominant fuel in South America). The estimated cost of a truck in Paraguay is \$20,000.

HOUSE CHECKERS – We need a team of volunteers who can periodically check on the house for us and make sure that we are aware of any problems that may arise.

Prayer Praise!

LAPTOP COMPUTER – One of the advantages of being a modern missionary is the Internet and e-mail. We have been blessed by Cannon United Methodist Church. They have provided a laptop computer so we can keep In Touch!

NEWSLETTER SUPPORT – Cannon has also agreed to provide their services to produce and mail our Newsletters.

In Christ – Ed & Linda Baker

Financial Contributions can be made to:

The Mission Society for United Methodists
P. O. Box 922637
Norcross, Georgia 30010-9804
(770) 446-1381
Designate gifts to: "Ed & Linda Baker Support"



The Mission Society
For United Methodists

Mailing Addresses:

Until Oct. 15, 2000 – 850 Dogwood Rd.
Suite A-400-633
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
After Oct. 15, 2000 – 929 Pecan Grove Pl.
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Phone: (770) 401-9251 Cellular

E-mail address: edlindabaker@yahoo.com

Web site: www.aguadevida.org