



# Agua de Vida

*Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay*

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

Issue No. 3

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## **Spanish – Spanish – Spanish!**

We made it to San Jose, Costa Rica and have been in school almost 3 months. Our apartment is small, but livable, and a 10-minute walk from school.

Ever since Ed went on his first short term mission trip back in 1988 we have been trying to learn Spanish. We have bought the Berlitz tapes, we have taken Conversational Spanish at the local community college, we have taken an extensive “home study” course in Atlanta and we have done a month long “immersion” course at a small language school in Trujillo, Honduras. But FINALLY we are able to do it RIGHT! All of our prior studies have helped immensely – we started in the second highest group for first termers – but it is already very clear how much we DON'T know. After 2 ½ months of classes, we are now “biilliterate”! We now fully understand why the Mission Society expects us to stay the entire year.

The school, Instituto de Lengua Española, is located in an eastern suburb of San José and has been here for almost 50 years, so the locals are quite used to gringos practicing their Spanish. Since the school was started and remains a missionary training institute, it has a wonderful spiritual environment. We have chapel twice a week for 45 minutes and in the middle of the semester we have Spiritual Emphasis Week (what in the South we would call a revival or camp meeting) - more about that later. All the teachers are committed Christians and we use the Spanish Bible as one of our texts.

## **Commissioning Service**

Our home church, Cannon United Methodist Church, will be commissioning us on April 22, 2001. All are invited! We look forward to this special time and hope that you all can join us. For information, call Cannon UMC at 770-972-5463. We will be sure to give a complete report in our next newsletter.

## **Spiritual Happenings**

It is always difficult finding a church home in a new city, but it is even more difficult in a new language! While there are churches here that worship in English, we have been strongly urged to worship in Spanish. We have had a hard time finding a church in which we felt comfortable. However, while walking around downtown San Jose we came across El Redentor (The Redeemer) Methodist Church! It takes about 30 minutes to get there via walking and riding a bus, but it is the closest Methodist Church to



El Redentor Methodist Church  
San Jose, CR

our apartment. As Linda says, being Methodists “in the womb”, we don’t want to change now.

We are attending faithfully and keeping our hearts open to opportunities to get involved, and God is rewarding us. We noticed in the bulletin that the Emmaus Community was having a “gathering”, and one of the long time missionaries we met invited us to attend. What a special night! We sang, played games and prayed for each other. We hacked away with our kindergarten Spanish, and Ed embarrassed himself only once. We found out that there are two Emmaus Walks (Caminatas) scheduled for May and we are planning on helping with them. Linda contacted Kathy Hall & Julie Wyngaert from Cannon Methodist and the Emmaus Community there is very excited about putting together a package of “agape” love gifts for the Costa Rican community. We keep discovering that if we open our minds and hearts (and ears) that God will show us ways to share and grow with Costa Rican Christians.

As we mentioned before, the Institute is a missionary school. Linda is getting very talented at preparing Spanish Bible studies, especially for children. We are required to give our testimony in class – a great way to force us to learn past tense verbs! In pronunciation class we practice reading Psalms. And each morning we take turns praying for the class– in Spanish, of course.

Lastly, we had a truly wonderful revival lead by Rev. Evan Williams from Belfast, Ireland. It was in English (Gracias a Dios), and the theme for the week was "Our Calling" and "Be Prepared". Evan's text was first based on Romans 10:13-18, "...And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?..." Then we moved to Ephesians 6:10-18, "...Put on the FULL armor of God..." It was an encouraging, enlightening, and scary week of hearing the gospel. Take a minute to read both these pieces of scripture. Hear them with an Irish accent, and please pray that these words will be embedded in our hearts

### **Praise God for Prayers Answered!**

DRILL RIG FUND – The Decatur, Georgia Rotary Club has raised the amount needed to purchase the drill rig we will use in Paraguay. The cost of the drill rig, including spare parts and shipping is about \$8,000 – and in conjunction with the State of Georgia and National Rotary Clubs it appears that they have raised TWICE the amount. A special word of thanks goes out to Houston Smith who sponsored the project and helped raise the funds.

We are still looking for sponsors for water wells at a cost of \$2,000 to \$4,000 each.

TRUCK FUND – The United Methodist Women at our home church, Cannon UMC, had a huge garage sale and donated over \$4,000 to our vehicle fund. The United Methodist Men also kicked in another \$500 so we have almost \$5,000 of the needed \$20,000 (used price) for a sturdy, 4 WD, diesel vehicle in Paraguay.

### **Prayer Requests**

We ask for your prayers for language acquisition.

We ask for your prayers that we will **BOLDLY** proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at all opportunities.

Please pray that we will each have a national friend when we get to Paraguay. We ask that God will make ready the hearts a two special nationals.

Please pray for the Mission Society for United Methodists, for the missionary team in Paraguay and for the Evangelical Methodist Community in Paraguay.

### Please stay in touch

Check out our web site for more details about what's happening in our lives on a semi-monthly basis. Also, we LOVE to get "snail-mail" at the following address:

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 Web site: [www.aguadevida.org](http://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 30010-9804  
 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
- Designate to Vehicle Fund



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 For United Methodists

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