



Agua de Vida

Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay

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

Issue No. 5

October 8, 2001

It is hard for us to believe that this is the last newsletter that we will be writing from language school in Costa Rica. We only have 6 weeks of school left, and we are excited about moving to the “next phase” of our missionary journey. Graduation is November 15th, a date which we are looking toward with mixed feelings. While we are by no means fluent, we have been taught all the grammar and we can certainly get along just fine in Spanish. The teachers tell us that it takes about 5 years of speaking a language to be totally fluent.

We will be returning to Atlanta for the month of December to pack and start the visa paperwork for residency in Paraguay. If all goes well we will be heading to Paraguay early January 2002. The process that God started so long ago is finally coming to pass— we will be going into the field to begin our ministry. As God’s holy word says in Jeremiah 29:11 “*For I know the plans I have for you...*”- and He is with us as His plans unfold.



Costa Rican flag at half-mast at the Spanish Language Institute

La Tragedia

We were taking a grammar test on the morning of September 11th. When we came out of class the students were talking about the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, an event that quickly became known as La Tragedia, or “the tragedy” in Spanish. Classes were cancelled for the day and we started a prayer vigil in the chapel. Thanks be to God, we didn’t lose any family members or close friends. However, many missionaries with the Mission Society and other agencies who are serving in dominantly Muslim countries need our prayers now more than ever.

Spiritual Happenings

The children at our home church, Cannon United Methodist in Norcross, GA have gotten involved in our missions activities! They made friendship bracelets and little “frog lollipops” for the children at our church in San Jose, El Redentor Methodist. The bracelets and lollipops were prizes to children who knew the Ten Commandments and other Bible facts. However, it looked to us that all the kids got something! A great big THANK YOU to Holly Brothers and the Cannon kids for their effort.



Keiner Perez with his friendship bracelet



Nicaraguan baseball team in Managua outfitted with donated baseball equipment

Missions Work

In the spring of this year we returned to the US for our commissioning at Cannon United Methodist Church. At the request of Dina Perez, a teacher at school from Nicaragua, we collected over 9 duffle bags of new and used baseball equipment. The equipment is being used in Nicaragua by several pastors in a "baseball ministry" reaching out to teenagers and young adults. The Maranata baseball team was started by the New Jerusalem Church in Managua by Pastors Gerardo and Karla

Gonzalez. Most of the team members are not Christians, and the Pastors use the practices as an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the young men. Thanks to everyone at Cannon UMC who helped with this important ministry!

Prayer Requests

Moving to Paraguay and starting our ministry is going to be stressful, and it will cost around \$6,000 to get everything moved and to set up our new home. Please pray that we will have strength and wisdom during this time. Also, please pray that we will have the financial support for this next phase of our ministry.

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 of two special Paraguayan Christians.

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

Praise God for Prayers Answered!

WATER WELL AND DRILL RIG FUND – Our prayers were answered, and the local Rotary Clubs in Paraguay agreed to serve as "local sponsors" in partnership with the Decatur Rotary Club on our drill rig fund. Please pray that our project will be approved by the international project selection committee of Rotary International.

The generous folks at Memorial United Methodist Church in Fernandina Beach Florida are the first congregation to raise the total amount needed to construct a well! Ed's parents, Jim and Martha Baker, are members and served as our "spokes persons" during their August Mission Emphasis Month. Many thanks to Mom & Dad and God bless the folks at Memorial UMC.

We continue to seek sponsors for water wells at a cost of \$2,000 to \$4,000 each. God willing, we will be drilling several wells next year.

TRUCK FUND – We are still raising funds to purchase a sturdy, 4 WD, diesel pickup truck in Paraguay. We are now up to \$9,500 raised of the \$20,000 (used price) needed.

Please stay in touch

Our web site has been down the last month, but we hope to have it functioning again soon, so keep checking. After the first of November, please send “snail mail” to the Mission Society for United Methodist. We will let everyone know our new address when we get to Paraguay.

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Yours In Christ-
Ed and Linda Baker

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 30010-2637
 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
- Designate to Vehicle Fund



The Mission Society For United Methodists **mark checks for: “Ed & Linda Baker Support”**