



Agua de Vida

Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay

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

Issue No. 6

April 4, 2002

Well – we made it to Paraguay – the path that God put us on two years ago has finally gotten us to the field!! His love and faithfulness never cease to amaze us. We got here without any problems, as did our 6 trunks and carry-on luggage – praise God! It was a challenge to decide how to limit ourselves to only 6 trunks for a 4 year term, but we managed. We will be back to the US in about a year, so we can bring anything we really miss then.



Everything for a 4 year term!

We are now in the midst of the “settling in” process. There seems to be a never ending list of details to sort out with getting a place to live, buying a vehicle, getting drivers licenses and processing our paperwork for our residency visas (to become “resident legal aliens” of Paraguay). Any of you who have worked or visited Latin America know that none of this works at the pace that we North Americans are accustomed to. But that’s OK – this is our new home now so we just get used to the slower pace.

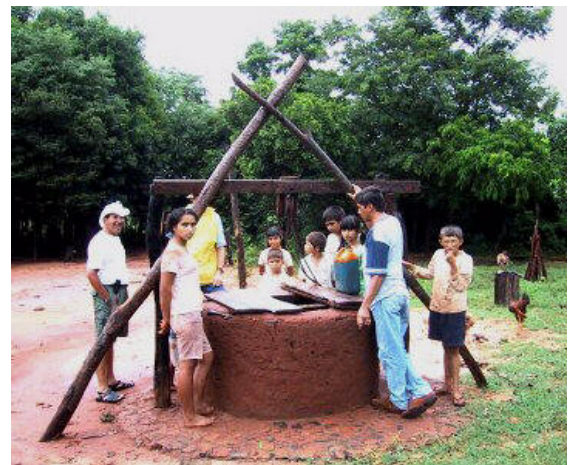
The good part is that most of the town shuts down from noon until 2:00 for lunch and siesta. It is quite hot this time of year here (high 90s to over 100F in the afternoons), so

we are more than happy to join the locals on the siesta custom. But – the afternoons are much longer and sometimes people do not eat dinner until 8:00 or 9:00 PM.

The currency in Paraguay is the Guaraní, and currently has an exchange rate of Gs 4,800 to \$1.00. This makes it VERY difficult to determine how much things cost. Also beef here is very inexpensive. We purchased steak for 1 meal, 2 lbs. of superior ground beef, 8 chicken breasts for G31,358 (\$6.53). However, 1 2oz. bottle of pure vanilla extract (from the US) cost G23,680 (\$5.00). We frequently get lost in all the 0’s, and have been millionaires several times over!

Our Ministry

We had the opportunity to visit the town of Yrybucúa in “the interior” and several of the Methodist Churches that have been planted in the area. Shown below is a well that serves the extended family of a Methodist Pastor in the region of Yrybucúa. It is about 100 feet deep and does not provide sufficient water.



Pastor Felipe’s well in Yrybucúa

One of our first projects when the drill rig arrives is to drill a new well for this Pastor, and to drill other wells at the nearby

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



Please mark checks for: “Ed & Linda Baker Support”

churches. This will help them to become centers for the community and to give the Pastors more chances to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Happenings

We have been attending the Central Church of the “Evangelical Methodist Community of Paraguay”, which is the official name of the Methodist denomination here. It is a small church with about 50 to 60 people in attendance. On Sundays, we have a Sunday School time from 9:00 to 10:30 in the morning, and then a worship service from 6:30 to 9:00 in the evening. Music is provided by a praise band of the youth and they have invited Ed to join in with his bongos – quite an enjoyable way to praise the Lord!



Pastor Cesar and the children at Central Church

Prayer Requests

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

Please pray for patience and discernment as we go through this period of transition and waiting for the drilling equipment to arrive. Pray that we will allow God to use this time as He has planned.

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 application to Rotary International was approved for the purchase of our drill rig, and the last step is final paperwork and shipping the equipment to Paraguay. Please pray that these last steps will go smoothly. We continue to seek sponsors for wells at a cost of \$2,000 to \$4,000 each. God willing, we will be drilling several wells this year.

TRUCK FUND – We purchased a Toyota Hilux 4WD, diesel, double cab pickup truck. It was older than we were looking for, but we bought it from the Church and it came with a well known mechanical history. Thanks to everyone who donated to the fund – especially to Cannon UMC.

Please stay in touch

We continue to update our web site every month or so. There are many more photos on the web site than we can put in the news letter, so check it out! If you would like to be added to our e-mail notification list, please send us your e-mail address and in the subject line just put “Add to List”. We love to get e-mails and we can receive “snail mail” at the Mission Society (address on the bottom of the front page), or it can be sent directly to our house in Paraguay (please address to Ed OR Linda, not both, in case we need to go to the post office to retrieve the mail, we won’t both have to go):

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Yours In Christ-
Ed and Linda Baker

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