



# Agua de Vida

*Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay*

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

Issue No. 8

March 10, 2003

It seems our newsletters are going out about every 5-6 months. We hope during the interim you are able to access our web site for more up-to-date information. If you would like to receive e-mail notices of when our web site is updated, please e-mail us your e-mail address. If others would like to be included, please let us know.

### Our Ministry

Our drill rig arrived and came "home" in October, and our ministry has begun in earnest! To date, we've drilled 4 wells, and have 3 of these wells fully operational. All wells are currently provided with a submersible electric pump. Except for Lambaré, we have also built a 1000 liter elevated water tank. Basic sanitary needs are also provided as needed by the community.

**Lambaré** – This is a small town near Asunción, and as reported in our September, 2002 Newsletter, is the home of the New Horizons Methodist School. This was the site of our first well. This well ended up



being 250'! This well is providing all the water needs for the school, as well as for the residence of Mark & Johanna Waltz and the Lambaré Methodist Church. Funding for this

well was provided by the Decatur Rotary Club, Decatur, GA.

**Yrybucua** – This is a very rural area and is the site of the Residency House used by missionaries working in the area. The house had a hand dug well, but as is the case so often in Paraguay, this well was not protected from contamination. Also, these wells are only as deep as can be managed by hand, so a much deeper, protected well was in need. This well was drilled to 140'. Other items included in this project are a clothes washing station and a spigot for neighbors to use. Funds for this well were provided by St. Marys UMC Foundation, St. Marys, GA.

**Quinta Linea** – This church is near Yrybucua and their well is also 140'. The sanitary needs for this community have been greater than the previous 2 wells. In addition to a church, this area also has a grade school for 75 students. There was no bath facility for the pastor's family – 11 children plus parents.



Also living on the "campus" are 2 teachers, plus the family of one of the teachers. We built a bathroom connected to the pastor's house, 3 clothes washing stations, plus added 2 water spigots. This well was

**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 30092-2637  
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"**

funded by The Memorial UMC, Fernandina Beach, FL.

**Colonia Guaraní** – This area is along the Brazilian border, north of Ciudad del Este, and is a beautiful region. We have started their well, but have not had a chance to finish the project. We will be leaving Asunción mid-March to complete our work in this region.

We have completed the actual drilling of the well which is only 72' deep. We hit basalt rock at this depth, but we hope the well will provide enough water for the church and the pastor's family. They currently do not have a water source, but carry water in buckets from their neighbor's well.

To complete this project, we still need to install the pump, build the tower for the water tank, and plumb the area. This area is different for us because we sleep in a tent and eat our meals with the pastor's family. This has been a real blessing for us.

**Water kids** - One aspect in common with all the wells is the need for water that we use in the drilling process. This has been the job of the local children, and they really enjoy being able to participate.



### Spiritual Happenings

We're not sure if this information can be considered "spiritual" or not, but at our last Annual Conference, Ed was appointed as a District Superintendent. He now has 7 churches in the Yrybucua region, as well as 2 churches south of this area. Linda was

appointed to a 3 person committee that oversees the work of the National Church's Treasurer. We have also been asked to start children and adult Sunday schools, as well as women's groups in our new district. This year will definitely be a year of more administrative duties in addition to well drilling!

**Newsletter Update** – Remember in September's Newsletter the pastor's house in Santa Rosa? This has been torn down, and 2 new kindergarten classrooms are being built in its place!

**Thanks to Cannon UMC**, our home church, for handling the mailing of our Newsletters. Also thanks for the loving hands of the Koinonia Sunday School class who folds these Newsletters and gets them ready for mailing.

### Prayer Requests

- † We ask for your prayers that we will **BOLDLY** proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at all opportunities.
- † Please pray for patience as we try to adjust **our** timing of well drilling to the **Lord's** timing.
- † Please pray that we will be able to discern God's will in our new responsibilities.
- † Please pray for additional missionaries in Paraguay. The work is great and the workers are few!

### PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS CHANGE

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*Yours In Christ-*  
*Ed and Linda Baker*

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