



Agua de Vida

Bringing the Water of Life to Paraguay

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

Issue No. 9

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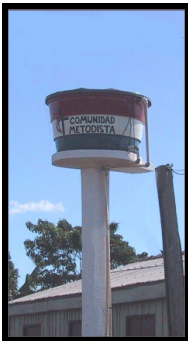
A lot has happened since our last Issue which was back in March, 2003. We've drilled, moved, and helped with work teams. Let's begin...

Our Ministry – Drilling – Colonia Guaraní

As reported in our last issue of Agua de Vida, we had finished drilling 3 wells, and we were in the process of completing the well at Colonia Guaraní. This location required us to live in a tent while on the job site. We were able to come back to Asunción about every 15 days, but tent living does offer opportunities as well as challenges. We adopted our living style to be quite comfortable.



The well was completed with a submersible pump and beautiful concrete tower. We also added a bathroom with flush toilet, sink and shower. What a change for this church community!



Puerto Indio – We remained in the Alto Paraná region and began working at our most humble church at Puerto Indio.



At this site we encountered basalt rock (too hard for our small drill rig) 35' deep. After

drilling 3 holes without success, we hired a local drilling firm from Asunción to complete the project. The well was drilled to 220', with lots of good, clean water. A bathroom was also added for use by the congregation. We ran a 1,500' pipe from the water tower to the pastor's home. As you can see from the height of the water tower at 22', there will be plenty of good water pressure at the pastor's house!



Note, on both water tanks is the Methodist cross & flame, and the words, "Comunidad Metodista". The churches now have a LARGE sign to advertise their location!

We suspended our drilling for the winter, and will begin again in November, springtime in Paraguay.

Our Home Life – Moving

During the month of May, we moved from the capital city of Asunción, to the small rural town of Santaní. This has been a change for us, but we feel God is making us more sensitive to the needs of those to whom we minister. We do not have drinking water at our house!



Cooking, washing dishes, and general water use in the home is a challenge! We are fortunate to be able to have the funds to buy our drinking water, but our neighbors walk down our dirt road to a creek to get water for home use. They bath at the creek.

Being in Santaní has allowed us to be closer to our district. Ed is District Superintendent of this Northern District, and Linda is Secretary of the Women's Federation. We are now only about a 2 hour drive (on a dry day) from our churches.

Our Other Jobs – Helping Teams

We have been privileged to help various teams coming to work here in Paraguay. Wesleyan Fellowship at UGA sent some wonderful youth to help with our church school in Lambaré. We also worked with a team from Boston whose pastor was our youth pastor when we lived in New Jersey 10 years ago.

California – In July we were invited to attend the Redwood Christian Park's family camp. This Park has entered into a covenant with our church to support our church camp; both monetarily and with work teams. It was fun being back in the states and sharing how God is working here in Paraguay.

August, 2003 – We had both a blessing and a sadness during August while we were in the states. August 1st, Ed's Mother, Martha Baker, passed away. She was a strong Christian, so we have assurance she is with Our Father. Our youngest daughter, Kara, graduated from college in August. We were blessed to be able to spend time with her and our oldest daughter, Rhian

Team Leader's Meeting – This year, the team leader's meeting was held in Melun, France. Ed attended, and was renewed in spirit as the Mission Society continues to grow in its dedication to send missionaries to the field. Linda spent 2 additional weeks in the states, attending the wedding of her nephew.

Agrimissions – This group of "agro-missionaries" has purchased 20 acres in the Quinta Linea region. They plan to start a demonstration farm project, teaching the locals different farming techniques, as well as introducing new crops. We were their hosts as they visited the region in October. They also brought a blacksmith who worked with one of our local pastors. This group offers their services to all missionaries within MSUM, and we are privileged to have them working here in Paraguay.

As Always, Hats off to Cannon UMC, our home church, for handling the mailing of our Newsletters; and to the Koinonia Sunday School class for folding.

Web Site – If possible, please check out our web site for more details about our ministry and lives here in Paraguay.

Prayer Requests

- † We ask for your prayers that we will **BOLDLY** proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at all opportunities.
- † Please continue to 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 various responsibilities.

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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 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



The Mission Society
For United Methodists

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