

April, 2002

Each month has brought new adventures and challenges into our lives. April has been no exception. We began the month with a few quiet days. We even had a chance to take a quick lesson in Guaraní, the local indigenous language. We think we may have increased our vocabulary in Guaraní by maybe 1 or 2 words. The language has been difficult to clearly hear and then repeat the sounds.

The 2nd and 3rd weeks in April we were back at the Methodist camp. We had a team here from Illinois, headed by Rev. Bob Souders, a board member of MSUM. Again, Linda was in the kitchen, cooking for 14-20 folks, 3 meals a day. We even enjoyed biscuits and gravy 1 morning! She was co-cooking with a Brazilian missionary, Luzia, who is a member of the Methodist missionary team here in Paraguay. Ed again was driving back and forth buying supplies, and translating. This team started a large commercial-type kitchen that will be a part of the multi-use facility. What a blessing that will be. We now cook in a small room in one of the dormitories that doesn't have a sink, and only has a small stove. It becomes a real juggling act when there is a large crowd.

The end of the month we hosted a new missionary couple with MSUM, John & Sandra Carrick. They will be joining us here in Paraguay in about 2 years after they complete their training. This was their first investigative visit. We were busy driving them around to the many ministry opportunities we have in Paraguay.

The major blessing this month has been – Ed is preaching! We have a real need for preachers here in Paraguay. During the International Leadership Institute conference, God touched Ed's heart with the call to preach. So, about twice a month Ed will be in the pulpit at Santa Rosa. It's a great place to start a career in preaching in Spanish. The congregation is small, accepting, understanding, and very welcoming. During one sermon, he had given a personal illustration, with a short personal story. He didn't include the end of the story and after the sermon a member came up to him and asked "what happened?" They ARE awake and listening! Please pray God would help Ed in this new endeavor.

We asked for prayers last month regarding our fledging adult Sunday school class. We are up and "crawling" with 4 students attending (okay, 2 are Ed & Linda). We have covered a general view of the Old Testament, a short study on Señora de Lot, and will begin the New Testament next week. PLEASE keep this program in your prayers – it is a strong need in our church.

It's been surprising how much computer help is needed here in Paraguay. Linda has been busy installing databases and helping train in the program's use. A Methodist school in Lambare needs a database in Spanish to help keep track of the students and teachers. The product is not available in Spanish, but Linda designed a database in Spanish and is in the process of training the school's staff – in Spanish! A LOT of new vocabulary. Preaching and teaching – what a way to force you to learn Spanish!

We were also invited to a 15th birthday party for a young girl who is a member of the Central Church. What an honor! We just assumed they invited all the North American missionaries, but we were the only Americans at the party. This is a VERY big event in a Latin culture and is called the "Qunice Años". It's much like a wedding without the groom. The girl enters the church, in a long white dress & gloves, and walks directly to face the preacher. There is a time of song, sharing, and a sermon. The person enters adulthood with the help of Jesus Christ, family, and friends. What a testimony!

Point of trivia – we also have daylight's saving time. Except being in the opposite weather pattern, we "fell back" this month. So now we are the same time as US EST. We are also experiencing very pleasant high 70's for our weather. ¡Gracias a Dios!

This month we've included photos again. We hope you are able to view them well. It's hard to resist sharing these with you. They are of our week at the camp, and the 15th birthday party. Until next month, we remain...

*In His Service,
Ed & Linda Baker*

Ester's Quince Años



How Pretty!!

**At the Methodist
Camp**



*All the girlfriends - one lucky girl gets the Ring -
tradition says she will be the first to wed.*



**Kitchen addition to the
Multi-Use facility**

**Linda and the ladies at
the local quilt store -
all hand made**

