

## *June 2002 Adventures*

Once again, answered prayers are the first order of business. God has been SO GOOD and has blessed our ministry over and over. Once Sharon Walton told us that sometimes when God opens a door for you, he KICKS IT OPEN!!! The implication for us is that we had better get moving through that door. We finally received the grant money which will pay for the water well drilling equipment and materials. Praise God! As usual, God knows what we need a lot better than we do – we were disappointed (or at least Ed was) that it took so long to order the drilling equipment. However, these past 6 months have been a real blessing in that we have been able to work with just about all of the other missionaries on the field here, and have learned so much about the ministries of the Methodist Church of Paraguay. Also – we have made such wonderful friends in the process.

The first half of June was VERY BUSY with two overlapping teams. The first was a team from Frazer UMC in Montgomery, AL. They worked at the New Horizons Methodist School which is being constructed by Mark and Joanna Waltz, another MSUM missionary couple. The team was a lot of fun – they were all from the same adult singles class and really worked well together. As usual, Linda helped with the “hospitality” end – cooking and cleaning, and Ed handled “logistics” – driving, going to the hardware store and translating.



*Methodist school under construction*

The second was a group from the Aldersgate Renewal Ministry which lead a seminar called Life in the Spirit. What an interesting seminar!! It focused on the works of the Holy Spirit in the church and in the lives of the congregation. We were amazed that such a group was working in the Methodist Church. In reality, works of the Holy Spirit are much more accepted here in the “third world”. It was a real eye-opener to hear people speaking in tongues and see believers “slain in the spirit”. We were assigned to translate for a prayer team each night who prayed with individual leaders from the Methodist Church of Paraguay, so we truly felt connected to each person. What a wonderful witness!!



*New wall behind Marcos' house*

We continue to serve at our little Santa Rosa Methodist Church in the barrio of Trinidad. The needs there are so desperate but the people are so loving, we really enjoy being with them. The little wooden house (really just a shack) that Marcos Pintos (Methodist seminary student and Associate Pastor) lives in needed some major work. So we got the money approved through the church committee and Ed oversaw the construction of a wall behind the house, rewiring the electrical service and repair of some major roof leaks. He still has no bathroom or kitchen, but it did improve his living conditions and

the general look in the area of the church.

After the teams left and we rested up a bit we took a tour of Paraguay north of Asuncion. This area is where we will start our water well drilling ministry and where we will likely move within a year. We headed north into the Chaco, then east across the Paraguay River at Concepción, which is the largest city in the northern region. We then went on to the Brazil border and visited a nice national park, Cerro Corá on the way. Finally we headed south through the little town of

Santaní and then on home to Asunción. Concepción and Santaní are both towns where we may live when we get our water well ministry going.



Riverboat on the Paraguay River

In Concepción we came across a river boat that was loading for a trip upriver to the Pantanal (the large swamp in John Grisham's *The Testament*). Ed was quite excited to find that we could buy passage on this wonderful luxury liner for only \$15 each, roundtrip. However, Linda was less than enthused, especially when the truth came out that the trip takes 2 ½ days, EACH WAY! However, we will eventually visit these northern limits of our new country, since one of our future possible ministries is to use such a



HUGE ant hills in the Chaco!

boat to take water well drilling and medical teams into regions where there are no passable roads.

Our next adventure was to deliver a motorcycle which we had bought (see "Motos para Jesus") for a pastor in the "interior". Since this is the first region where we will drill wells the trip served also as a fact finding mission. Our first well will probably be at a small church and school at a settlement called Quinta Linea in a region called Yrybucua. It is about 2 hours off the paved road (in good weather) on some of the worst dirt roads we have ever seen, but it is a spiritual oasis bustling with activity. The church is a small wooden building harking back to the old country church of the 1900s in the US. Pastor Felix is a wonderful man who lives in a small parsonage next to the church with an



Current well at Quinta Linea



Log bridge in the Yrybucua region

extended family of 12 people. Also located on the property is a Methodist School which has 75 kids in attendance. The two teachers also live on the grounds in a small duplex. With all of this activity, they need a lot of water. They have a hand dug well, but the soil is very sandy and the water table is over 40 feet deep. The first well collapsed, and the second well is not deep enough to produce sufficient water for all of the activities. Please keep this congregation in your prayers as we plan to bring them much need water.

We thank you all again for all of your support and prayers and may God bless you (Dios le bendiga – Spanish & Ñande jara tanderovosa - Guanani).

*In His Service,  
Ed & Linda Baker*