



Global Resources

Equipping Missionaries World Wide



Monthly Newsletter of Ed & Linda Baker - March, 2011

NOTICE – Asphalt has reached Yrybucua! We had been told by our missionary friends in Paraguay that, yes, indeed there was asphalt into the town. What a difference! Driving never seemed so smooth.



As you read, we had a chance to travel to Paraguay in March. The purpose of our trip was to do a well assessment of the 28 water & sanitation projects we had completed prior to 2008. We had a terrific learning experience finding out what works, what doesn't work, how locals have advanced the projects, and what improvements we can make to our future ministry. We also had a chance to visit with all of our former churches & pastors in the North District of Paraguay.



One highlight of a really successful project was at Primera Linea, the church of Pastor Felipe Vera. Not only is the well still pumping after being drilled in 2004, but Pastor Felipe has made repairs, when needed, and has made improvements. He has developed an irrigation system to help take water to his crops behind his house. The piping will travel ½ mile. The public spigots are used often by the folks in the community. What a blessing this project has been for this area.

We were able to visit 26 of our projects. Two projects are located near the Brazilian border, and due to time constraints we checked on them by telephone. But what a success we heard about our project at Puerto Indio in Alto Paraná! This project was completed in 2003. Ten homes have been connected to the well. They have also started charging about \$2 per month from each home receiving water. This money will allow them to have funds available when pump repairs are needed. What a heartwarming experience to hear about such industrious people that are improving their lives with a minimum of foreign aid.



We did have our troubled and unsuccessful projects to evaluate. Two were at the Guarani Indian Reservation of Y'Apy. Their first well was drilled in 2004, but had problems with the electric submersible pump. The electricity, which is supposed to be 220 volts, kept burning out the pump due to irregular voltage. We changed this well to be used with a hand pump. In 2008, we drilled another well, added a new electric pump with a voltage regulator. Unfortunately, this pump has also failed. We think general apathy in the village has been a major problem. A new

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pastor for the Methodist Church has recently been appointed. We hope he will be able to help bring a sense of ownership for the community. The photo above is of Ed, checking the depth of the well drilled in 2008.

As we mentioned, we did visit with lots of our Paraguayan friends. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship with our former boss, Bishop Pablo Mora and his wife Claudette. It was great having a chance to catch up on news from Paraguay as well as share photos of grandchildren.

Also working in Paraguay while we were there was Dr. Wayne Burgess. He is a member of the Global Resource Team. It was a pleasure to meet with him, and be able to share with his medical ministry.



Not only has the GRT had a presence in water & sanitation in Paraguay, but also with medical ministry and Agrimissions. Here we are with Wayne (center), and Paraguayan missionaries Christian & Angelica Dickson.

Besides our trip to Paraguay, we also spent a few days in California for our grandson's 3rd birthday. March was definitely a traveling month for us!

We are often reminded of just how small the world really is. We were in Paraguay when the terrible tsunami hit in Japan on Friday, March 11th. As you may remember, sesame is a major crop for the farmers of Paraguay which is exported to Japan. The prices for sesame dropped, substantially, on Monday, March 14th. Most of the farmers in the North District didn't connect the tsunami to the dropping prices of their crops. Some of the farmers were aware of the disaster due to satellite TV now being received in Yrybucua. We do pray with folks around the world for the thousands of lost lives in Japan.

April we will continue our traveling in our position as Directors of the Global Resource Team. We ask for prayers for traveling mercies and God's direction as we continue our work worldwide.

*In His Service,
Ed & Linda Baker*

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