

## *January 2008 Newsletter*

We trust you all enjoyed the holiday season with friends and family. The four of us, plus Stephen, spent Christmas Eve and half of Christmas Day in the city. Christmas Eve we had an incredible rainstorm here in the city (not a drop out at the camp). We had strong winds that uprooted trees and tore apart billboards and brought a lot of rain. Before the rain started we had a hailstorm. It wasn't snow on Christmas Eve, which I (Gwen) love but it was close enough for me! The storm knocked out our electricity for a few hours so we played games by a battery operated light and candles. It was an enjoyable "silent night".

On Christmas day, after a traditional North American Christmas lunch, the 4 of us went out to put on a traditional Paraguayan Christmas meal at the camp. Daniel barbecued the meat and I made salads for everyone in the children's home plus the camp caretaker, Gustavo and his family. We also had a wonderful family that attends our services at the camp join us, making 29 all together.

New Year's we spent with the children in the home. We gave Maria and Osbaldo 3 days off so they could go and visit family. With 17 children it is a very busy place.

A 21 year old Paraguayan girl, who has lived in Argentina for the last 7 years, came to spend New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with us at the home with her boyfriend. She came to Paraguay because she needed some counseling from her spiritual dad, Dan. Of the 4 days in Paraguay she spent 2 with us and 2 visiting her family and friends.

Also on New Year's Eve, as we were sitting down to eat, a man who attends our camp church with his family, arrived with his children. Him and his wife were in the middle of a crisis and asked if he could leave his 3 children with us for the night. I counted it a privilege to be entrusted with their children in their time of need. This started off the new year with ministry opportunities. Dan has had several counseling sessions with them since that night. After the wife shared about their lives she asked Dan if he still wanted to be their friends because of a past experience of rejection by a pastor. One of my favorite sayings lately has been: "A church is not supposed to be a social club for Christians but a hospital for sinners." Lord, use us to show Your love and help bring healing to a hurting world!

Day of the Kings (wise men) is January 6 and this is the day in Paraguay that the children receive gifts. Maria shopped for each child and put a lot of time into choosing the gifts. Thanks to a donation for our local church in Collingwood each girl received a new pair of sandals and a small toy and each boy received a remote control truck and a small toy. Later that day a group of ladies from the Vineyard church came out and gave each child gifts, played games with them, prepared a snack and took them in the pool. This was the idea of one special single mom in the church who has been making and selling cake and other things after church for months gathering money for this project. It was all I could do not to cry as they opened the gifts. God planned each gift. The girl who received red sandals in the morning from Maria received a red t-shirt from the Vineyard. The girl who received black sandals, received a black t-shirt and so on. Even the hair accessories were color coordinated and exactly what Maria had wanted to buy them but ran out of money since we have 2 more children since she received the shopping money and needed to make it stretch. The only information Dan gave our Vineyard friends was the sex and age of each child. These little children are very precious to God and He took care of the details!

Dan had the privilege of preaching and teaching at a Church of God youth camp this summer. He taught on the theme of "Restored to Advance" and used Nehemiah as his text. He had no idea that this church was using Nehemiah as their text for the year of 2008. It is always amazing to watch the Lord pull things together.

The Church of God of Prophecy youth camp is January 17-20. Dan will be teaching and preaching at this camp also. They are expecting around 250 young people and there are about 12-15 non-church girls from the local

town close to the camp who have said they are coming to see my handsome sons again. Whatever reason they come to camp is okay because they are going to hear the gospel!

Dan and Daniel have spent most of last week and will spend all of next week working at the camp. Even though Dan is there doing physical work God has been using him there for ministry work also. He has continued counseling with the couple from our camp church. He had another spiritual daughter, who has left her husband because he beat her up, come see him this week at the camp. Dan also was called on to take a sweet older lady, who attends services, to the hospital with chest pains. This week he is hoping to visit another couple who attend and start some marriage counseling.

Kyle and I have been at the house in the city doing a video Spanish course together. It is a part of his school curriculum and since we had to buy the videos anyway I bought workbooks and tests for me too. It is fun doing it together and hopefully my Spanish will be better when we are done.

We would like to pick up where we left off with the children in the home and in this newsletter I would like to share about Zulma and Anibal, two great kids. They are brother and sister. They came to our home a year and a half ago. They are both sweet and well behaved children.

Zulma is 9 and entering into grade 4 and does quite well in school. She likes to play soccer, swim and laugh.

Anibal is 11 and is entering into grade 3. He never attended school on a regular basis before because he had to work. He had to start in Grade 1 when he came to the home. He likes to play soccer, ride the bike and cook.

If you want a favor or some work done these 2 are the first ones to volunteer to help. They are a pleasure to be around and have stolen a piece of my heart.

Please know that while you are praying for us, we continue to pray for you. We often remind the local church at the camp that all of this ministry is possible because of you and your local churches. God continues to move and it is a blessing to serve Him.

Blessings,  
The Miller family