

## *Newsletter, May 2008*

Greetings Friends

Once again it is past time to get this newsletter out to you.

On the church planting front, it is exciting to let you know that the Lord is working and moving. This past week we had 58 persons in our regular Sunday service as well as 27 at our mission in Caazapai 1.5 km from the camp and 23 in attendance at our mission in Rincon 6.5 km from the camp. That's a total of 105 people attending our services during the past week. We are also having first time visitors in all of our services in all three locations. We give God all the praise for what He is doing and for the blessings He is pouring out on this area of Paraguay. Please pray for discipleship and commitment from those attending the services.

As we are working in these three areas, we are also extending into two new areas further from the camp towards the south. The two areas are called Moquete. Please pray for these areas as we are looking for two other house churches to plant there. I believe that within the next couple of weeks they should be established.

One of our goals is to plant a house church about every five km. One of the outreach tools we are using is soccer. Paraguayans are fanatics about soccer. Every Sunday afternoon, Gustavo, Osvaldo, and myself participate in a local soccer tournament from 1:00 – 6:00 pm. We all enjoy the soccer and I am the second oldest person that plays. However we also use the opportunity to get to know the people that come from all over the region to play and watch. There are ten teams of ten players each Sunday as well as about 50-100 spectators.

In case you are not aware of the fact, “friendship evangelism” is the best form of evangelism in the world today. We use the tournaments to shake hands, drink terere, get to know people, and establish friendships (as well as play soccer). It has proven effective many times over and yesterday was another example. Gustavo received a visit from Moquete from one of the brother's of a player on our team. His name is Francisco and he is 25 years old. The mother had sent the brother looking for help claiming that Francisco was threatening to commit suicide and she did not know where to turn for help. We have known that Francisco has been sick for a long time, something has been wrong with his mind. As he shared with Gustavo and Gwen yesterday, they discovered that Francisco's mom has been using a local witch doctor for a number of years trying to get her son “healed”. Yesterday he rebelled and told his mother that he would not participate any longer in her visits to the witch doctor and that if she did not get a hold of one of us from the ministry at the camp, (Gustavo, Osvaldo, Saul, or myself), then he would end his life as he did not want did continue as he was. He told her that only through us could he get the help he needs. After some time of Gustavo and Gwen speaking with Francisco, his mom, and his brother, Francisco gave his life to Christ. Once again we give God the praise. Please pray for Francisco for a complete healing and a “sound mind”.

The Children's home continues to do well. We currently have 19 children and are waiting for the 20<sup>th</sup> a boy of 7-8 years old that is in process. Maria and Osvaldo are doing a great job as house parents and every day it seems as our home becomes more of a home for everyone. Since school started in February, we have been on another new learning curve. This is the first year that we have two of our children in Jr. High School and one in Sr. High School. This requires that they have to be driven to different schools 3.5 km. and 7.5 km. away from the camp. Please pray for the changes and for patience as we make the necessary changes to our programming.

Also from the children's home, last weekend we had a group of men (7), from the San Miguel church in San Lorenzo come a volunteer their time to continue working on the addition to the children's home that the team from Canada began in March. In two days they were able to complete 90% of all the stucco to the walls and I was able to install about 90% of all the electrical wiring. We are now left with the plumbing and bathroom installation as well as finishing the electrical and then painting. The kids are very excited to have a little more space and a full living room where they can all be together without sitting on top of each other. Thanks again to the Collingwood team and the church in San Miguel.

**From Gwen:** This past while has been a time of friends and ministry. God has used some friends from Canada and the U.S., to come and minister to our area now and to set up some ministry for the future.

Through our friends several needy families received baby clothes. With my two friends we went out into the community and gave out beanie babies. Two single moms were given money, 1 hardworking but struggling family with 7 children still at home received groceries. As soon as my friend told me about the money that she brought with her for needy families in the community I instantly thought of the above 3 families but was not certain as to what to do with the rest of the money. I was praying about direction when Saul told me of one of our local church members who did not own a pair of shoes. The only thing he had to wear was a pair of flip flops and we are entering into cooler weather. The day Saul presented him with a pair of canvas running shoes for work he told us how grateful he was because that day his sandals broke. God's timing is perfect! We purchased a pair of sandals for a sweet 87 year old who didn't have any. Bethany (an 18 year old girl from South Carolina that is with us until June 25) and I went to the local school because I had heard that some of the children were coming to school barefoot even in the cold. In total there were 17 barefooted children. I still had enough money that my friend left with me for the community to buy 6 pairs of canvas running shoes and Bethany purchased the other 11 pairs. We let Saul take them to school because he has put the school on his list of weekly visitation because 2 of the teachers and the principal are interested in talking to him about the Lord. Even though I was just a facilitator for the giving of things in the community I was so richly blessed by the hugs, kisses and smiles of these precious people.

This past Sunday we had three new moms who had received baby clothes attend for the first time. It is such a privilege to be called on to visit the lonely, pray for the sick and minister to the needy and the hurting. Please continue to pray with us that God continues to open doors in our community to minister and that hearts would be open to receive the Good News of the Gospel.

Blessings

The Miller's