

Project Paraguay

Heart Aflame ...  ... Mind Renewed

In the Service of Christ the King

October 4, 2015

Dear Friend of Project Paraguay,

It is hard to believe all that has happened this Summer since my last letter in May. Our efforts, made possible by your support, resulted in a major upgrade to the Barrio Parque Church as detailed in the attached pictures.

In July, two teams, one from Virginia and another from North Carolina, visited our Paraguayan sister churches. The first team to go was the Virginia team composed of individuals from Gainesville Presbyterian Church, Cristo Redentor Church (Warrenton), Harvester Presbyterian Church (Springfield), Alexandria Presbyterian Church, Faith Church (Frederick, MD), McLean Bible Church, Berea Baptist Church (Fredericksburg), and Page Valley Baptist Church (Rileyville). The Team arrived in Luque on July 10, 2015. Coincidentally, the Roman Pontiff visited Luque at the same time which had a profound effect on the area and disrupted the Team's ability to get work done for three days because of the heightened security. Persons leaving the neighborhood were not allowed to return. After the Pope's departure, the Team made up for lost time and so much was accomplished starting with the Women's Conference organized chiefly by Kathryn Stevens of Faith Church and Gladys Acevedo. They set up a terrific women's conference covering practical and theological topics of special interest to women—it was a real blessing to the women of the church and neighborhood.

The team brought down books, Bibles, pamphlets, medical supplies, a projector, and 13 computers—many thanks to the individuals and churches who contributed specifically for the supplies. Our able technician and PP Secretary, Bob Sowers, installed the computers and also fixed the router problems, reconnecting El Renuevo Church to reliable Internet. Construction at El Renuevo consisted of finishing the stucco and installing bricks to improve the façade of the church as well as other projects. However, the other main focus of the Virginia Team was remedying mold issues and the installation of electricity at Barrio Parque Church. Spearheading the effort were Gordon Caylor and David Tanks who achieved great results. With the help of others as well—notably of Tana Robbins' (our translator) who was a surprisingly efficient trench digger—these are some of the accomplishments at Barrio Parque:

- Dug 160 feet of trenches for burial of electrical conduit and wire;
- Cut and chiseled out brick and mortar to channel 168 feet of conduit;
- Mounted 27 electrical boxes;
- Installed over 1370 feet of electrical conduit;
- Pulled and installed over 3,000 feet of electrical wire;
- Assembled and mounted a 24 circuit, 100 amp 220 volt main service panel;

- Designed and installed three 3-way sanctuary lighting controls using local switches;
- Fixed a leak in Narciso's house behind the sanctuary and remedied mold issues.

The North Carolina Team, arriving two days after the departure of the VA Team, followed up the work by doing concrete, stucco, and painting work at Barrio Parque. There is still quite a bit of work to be done at Barrio Parque, but that will have to wait until next year's trips. You see, the only opportunity the Paraguayans have to make improvements to facilities, given the poverty and lack of funds, is to await a U.S. team that can not only provide people but more importantly funding for such projects.

Despite obstacles, such as lack of transportation (church van broke down) and the Pope's visit, this year's teams probably accomplished the most of any in recent memory. Among the projects we are currently focusing on is raising enough money to buy land for the Marin and Mariano congregations. Trip participants were concerned about the living conditions of people in these neighborhoods. They need economic development but most importantly, they need the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a strong Christian presence to bring them hope, spiritual direction, Christ-centered education, physical help and healing. Churches committed to these goals are greatly needed and you can be part of this effort.

During the Teams' visit, Pastor Maureira laid out his vision for the churches:

- Continued Church growth through outreach to the surrounding communities like Marin and Mariano where the goal is to buy land.
- Commitment to Christian education and the growth of the school—would like to build a school separate from the church if a piece of land can be purchased. Vision is to teach beyond 9th grade so students can finish high school. Long-term vision is to found a Christian University.
- Most importantly, the Lord calls his people to pray and use their gifts and become pastors, teachers, missionaries, bus drivers, architects, doctors, and work for the benefit of the Kingdom.

Please consider making a generous contribution to the work of Project Paraguay. Contributions are fully tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code. Attached is a tear slip to help make your donation. If you can contribute monthly, the Project Paraguay website allows you to set up recurring credit card donations. The donations page is at: <http://www.projectparaguay.org/donations.html>.

We thank you for your partnership, and may Christ be glorified in our work.

For the PP Board,

Albert Veldhuyzen

Albert R. Veldhuyzen
Executive Director

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