



Paraguay Missions

The Miller Family

CHRISTMAS OUTING TO ASUNCION AND THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

JANUARY 2015

Happy New Year!!! Dan and I spent the 2 weeks over the holidays in the Children's Home.

I normally get the kids to each make me a wish list of what they want for Christmas. Since most of the kids are teens, we asked them if they wanted to do that again or did they want to shop with me. It was a loud vote to shop with me. The 15 of us loaded up in the van and went to town. The kids got some great stuff thanks to the Winston Salem church and Helping Hand Ministry. Between just 2 stores everyone found something different. As each one finished shopping with me, they went out in front of the store where Uncle Dan bought them ice cream cones. Normally I shop over many days, go over my numbers and gifts at home and then go back making sure it is all even. This year with shopping and ice cream we were done in 2 ½ hours. I think we have a new tradition!!!

The kids were all very happy with their gifts but they woke up on Christmas morning to also find stockings, thanks to Helping Hand and boxes of gifts sent from the Macon, GA church. They were very overwhelmed!

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are when Paraguayans celebrate with grilled meat and salads. Some of our teen girls had gone over Christmas Eve day to help a neighbor cook in her big brick oven. She has a new baby so they took turns holding the baby and to make 3 kinds of traditional breads. While over at her house one of her family told Marcos that they wanted to spend Christmas Eve with all of us. When Dan found out he went over to invite the family. We ended up having a couple of them over, along with 5 young men who had come over to visit.

We were originally to have a group in the camp on Christmas Day. They cancelled so that meant that Dan and I were free to enjoy the holiday with the kids.

New Year's Day we had Rosa come in the Home to stay with the kids because we had a group coming in the next day. At 7:00am Dan was on the tractor and I had the push mower. At 7:30 the sky got dark and it started to spit rain. I prayed because it was our only time to cut grass. About ½ hour later I realized there were blue skies. How quick I was to ask God and how slow I was to give thanks for the answer.

Thanks to the Collingwood (Journey) church we took the kids on their annual outing. We decided to go to the zoo first. It has been many years since we had been there. Also we know that Pedro and his sister were staying in the park in front of the zoo at one point. We had hoped we could find his family. As we pulled into the entrance, Elena remembered that the zoo is closed for cleaning on Mondays. This is now the second year we tried to visit the zoo on a Monday with the kids. We had still hoped to walk around the beautiful park and find Pedro's family. Unfortunately they had moved all the indigenous people out of there a while ago. We did get some really nice pictures of the kids though! We then went to the mall to have lunch and watch a movie. Araceli had never been in the city before so it was fun listening to her point out tall buildings and such. It was a great day!

For years my tiny electric lawn mower was used for the camp, the Children's Home and my house. As you read in the Newsletter in 2013, the NC team paid for a gas powered mower for the camp. It has been such a blessing to not have a 100 foot extension cord to mess with around the buildings. I can now cut places where I couldn't reach before. Thanks to the Winston Salem church, this month, the Home received a big electric mower. I cut their park with it one day and it is twice the size of mine. What a blessing!!

Dan and Osbaldo have been taking turns getting kids to the dentist in the hospital in the town next to us, Paraguari. The dentist is free in the hospitals but in ours, you have to go very early to get a number and hope by the time you get up to the window there still is one available. One of our kids needed the specialist in Paraguari. There you don't have to be in line until 9:00 and they have always gotten in. This week Osbaldo took Pedro with them. We didn't know if he would get treated because he doesn't have any documents of identity and there you always have to show them. Not only did the dentist treat Pedro, but he told Osbaldo that by looking at his teeth Pedro is around 14. When Pedro came to us last year (for only a few days), he was small and we guessed his age around 9. Since he spoke only an indigenous language, he couldn't tell us anything. He has grown a lot and is getting hair on his upper lip. It is exciting to learn something about him.

An area young man has started guitar lessons here with the kids. So far he has had a lesson with Leandro and Carolina. We would like to have just a couple learn right now so that they can play in church. There are no musicians at the camp church now.

January 15-18 is Youth Retreat. We will have a smaller group this year. With staff included we are planning on 200. Dan is not translating for the first time in many years. He will however, be teaching twice and preaching the final service on Sunday morning. Please pray for anointing for Dan and for Suni and I as the Directors. Youth Ministries is in a month long chain fast for camp. We are praying that God transforms lives during the 4 days. Please pray for physical strength for Dan and I, for the work before camp, during camp, to be able to pour into the lives of the kids. And the day after camp, we have 1 day to clean and cut grass to prepare for the next group coming in. We are providing the food for that group, too.

Years ago a Pastor friend of ours, Pascual, gave Dan the nickname "The God Father." Just one of the reasons was they were in construction of their church building and couldn't get cement because the hardware stores had run out due to a shortage in the country. Dan picked up the phone to his supplier and had cement delivered to them that day. A couple of weeks ago Pastor Pascual invited Dan to come and preach at his church. As he introduced Dan and invited him to come to the front, he played the theme song to the movie "The God Father." We all laughed but truly the nickname is perfect. That same week Dan was talking to missionary friend of ours and found out she had problems with her motor for her well. While Dan was working on that she told him that her air conditioner was not working and the repairman had been paid but never came back or answered her calls. It just so happened that Dan knew the repairman. Dan went to his house and arranged to drive him out there. She now has water and air!!

We just had a camp that wanted their kids to do some community projects for a couple hours on the Saturday afternoon. Dan arranged the projects and bought some supplies. Thanks to these teens, 2 neighbors and the Children's Home had gardens prepared and have the seeds to plant as soon as we get the next rain. The fourth project was extra special to me because it is something that I have wanted to do for a long time but never found the time. The teens sanded and painted the house of a sweet grandma down the road from the camp. It looks great and she is so happy!

Carolina has completed her first course to becoming a Doctor. Her certificate is for Professional Therapist in Natural Medicine. With this program she could open up her own clinic.



Christmas morning surprises

Freshly painted house with Grandma in the middle of the group.

Dan- misionero9501@hotmail.com

Gwen- gwen.m.miller@hotmail.com

Blessings to all, and thank you for your continued support.

Harvest Partners Ministry

a division of Global Missions

Annette Taylor | Liaison

Church of God of Prophecy International Offices

PO Box 2910 | Cleveland | TN | 37320-2910

Phone: 423.559.5207 | Fax: 423.559.5238

E-mail: annette@cogop.org -or- harvestpartners@cogop.org



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