



Paraguay Missions

The Miller Family

CHRISTMAS OUTING TO ASUNCION AND THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

MARCH 2015

We are reading about the extreme cold and snow in North America, while we are here sweating, anxious for the cooler temperatures of fall.

We wanted to take 3 days and 2 nights off for our anniversary, and we almost did it. We managed 2 days and 2 nights. My only desires were quiet, time to sleep, read, and time alone with Dan. I didn't care where we stayed. We stayed at a beautiful hotel that a friend of ours told us about. The day before we were there was Valentine's weekend, and they said the place was full. Since God loves me soooo much and He knew my desires, He emptied the place. We were the only guests. I sat down at a patio table with my tea shortly after we arrived and I could not hold back the tears. All I could say was "thank you Jesus." If that wasn't already enough of a blessing, the hotel cost was to the dollar of the amount of a special offering that was sent to us from a friend.

Ladies retreat was a blessing and fun! I ended up helping with games again this year. Normally the ladies are not into the games and it is hard to get them to play. Last year I bought their participation by giving everyone that played a prize. I woke up at 5:30 am on the Saturday of the retreat with an idea for a game. It was a lot of fun and I think the ladies enjoyed it, too. Before Cynthia and I did the games, we led a Zumba class. Those of you who know me well are probably laughing. I had never even seen a Zumba class before. Cynthia brought a Zumba DVD. I thought my standing in the front to exercise was a good way to encourage the others to participate. First, they would be so busy laughing at me they wouldn't feel embarrassed, and second, if this Grandma could do it so could they. Unfortunately, only one lady my age participated and all the rest were the younger ladies. The rest of the group sat and watched. A couple of them were filming it, so I hope it never ends up on Facebook.

Since our last newsletter, there has been a major change in the Home. Dan and I are the new Houseparents of the 16 kids. Maria and Osbaldo were here for 8 years and we appreciate all they did for the kids. They were granted permission by the judge to take Angel with them. This is a great thing for Angel. He is very close to Osbaldo and he only had 1 more year in the Home with no family connection to live with next year when he turns 18. The kids knew that Maria, Osbaldo, Kevin, and Jade were leaving that night so they were prepared, but we couldn't give them any advance warning about Angel because it was the last minute that everything was confirmed from the judge. It made for a much more difficult goodbye for everyone.

The 17 year old that we told you about in the last newsletter stayed for a month and has returned back to her parents. We have received a 13 year old girl named Alejandra Elizabeth. Since we already have an Alejandra in the Home, we are calling her Eli. She is really sweet, friendly, and plays soccer so she is fitting in really well. She told Dan to tell the judge not to bother looking for any aunts that might want her because she wants to stay with us.



*Alejandra Elizabeth,
our newest girl.*

*Richard, our newest
boy.*



Thankfully we have had a 2 week break from camps. This has allowed us time to move into the Home, time with the kids, and some time to work on changing some rules and bad habits. I have been enjoying working in the mornings and coming in to a hot meal made by Rosa (the cook for the Home). I could really get used to this!! Dan has been doing some repairs and some work in the yard to improve the look of the Home. We are not looking for other houseparents right now, because we want this time with the kids and after 8 years with Maria and Osbaldo, they need time to adapt. Next weekend starts another run of camps for a month and then that will be the end of camp season for a little while.

Please pray for Dan and I as we adapt to our 24/7 life in the Home and figure out how to accomplish everything else we need to be doing. This means that I can no longer go with Dan to Quyquyho to teach the little ones and that makes me sad. The last time I went, the kids hugged me, told me they would miss me, and thanked me for teaching them. It was hard not to cry.

Dan and I heard recently that there existed a Leprosy Colony about an hour from Carapegua, so yesterday I went for a visit with two purposes. First I wanted to see it and learn. It is around 900 hectares or 1980 acres of land owned by the national government and operated by a group of Catholic nuns. The reason I had heard about it was because Osvaldo and Maria Luisa from Quyquyho took their kids from the home there to share with them. They did dramas, music, dance, etc. for the colony and shared lunch with them. They also took two new girls from the colony to their home to live with them. Many of the children that live in the colony are healthy and leprosy free, however, they are often ostracized because of where they live and the fact that one of their parents has leprosy.

The second reason I went to visit was because the two girls that went to Quyquyho have a brother that was also looking for a home. The home in Quyquyho is a girls only home. We are a mixed home and were asked if the brother could come live with us. Richard is 15 years old, a little older than we are normally looking for, however, the circumstances caused me to want to check it out. So I went to meet him and his family. I brought Richard home with me to try it, to see if he would really like it here.

Richard seems to be very nice, quiet for the most part, speaks more Guarani than Spanish, but understands Spanish. Although he is 15 years old, he is only in grade six because of his situation. He tells me that he really enjoys school, loves working the land, and in the gardens, and he gets along great with everybody.

I learned a long time ago that when we pray, "Lord send us the kids that you want us to have," it's not always the kids we have in our minds. So when God opens a door and for the moment closes several other doors, we try to listen.

Please pray for Richard and for all of our kids. Rocio is doing very well in her last year of university, Carolina is also doing very well waiting for the next step in her studies. Elena, Alejandra, Zulma, Leandro, Sofia, Mercedes, Monica, and our newest girl, Alejandra Elizabeth, have all begun their next year of high school. Abigail, Marcos, Araceli, Miguel, and Pedro have also begun a new year in grade school.

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

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