



July 2014

News from Paraguay

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Paraguay on a winter's day. It's actually sunny outside now but it was 5°C when we got up this morning and the forecast is for cold all weekend. Still, we can't complain as we spent 2 weeks in the USA enjoying their summer and only arrived back two weeks ago.

We went to Atlanta for a conference linked to our computer management system in school. Four of us went and we all attended different seminars. All of us said how good the conference was and how much we'd learned and been challenged by. The great thing was that it was run by Christians and so the ethos of the course was Christian. The course itself only last 3 days but they were very packed days, starting early (7.30am) and finishing at 5.30pm with barely a break in between seminars. We arrived in Atlanta on the Monday morning ready to start the course the next day. The course finished on Thursday afternoon but we stayed for three more nights.



In the extra time we managed to get to see the sights like the Georgia Aquarium.. said to be the biggest in the world. It was spectacular. We also both learned to ride a Segway (see photo) and had a tour of the city on them. Our extra time also provided us with an opportunity to visit one of the large churches there. We went to Passion City Church where they have links with singers like Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman. Their Pastor Louie Gigglio was just back from a trip and so we heard him preach. It was a great visit and we really enjoyed our morning there.

From there we went onto Miami as we had to change planes there anyway. We'd decided to stay a few days there and Mara (the lady who breeds the dogs) was also there and invited us to share her flat! We also met up with another school family and between the two families we were thoroughly spoiled! There we managed to fulfill a few more dreams as we swam with dolphins and went on an airboat in the Everglades. An alligator there obliged us by swimming up to the boat and giving us a good view of him! We then spent our last day on the beach with the other school family and swam in beautiful clear water.



Georgia Aquarium

Our hotel !!





Trip to Concepcion

We arrived back on Sunday morning and spent time sorting things out. First of all the mountain of washing! We also started to work on our church service for the 4th of August. It just needs all putting together now. Mags was back 4 days and then was off to Concepcion with the Bishop and Pastor Donald to celebrate Bishop Andres retirement. This should have taken place at the end of May but Bishop Peter was ill and so it was postponed. Whilst she was there Mags stayed with Claire and was able to visit some of the youth work with her. Gwen was left behind dog sitting! .. unsure of how she'd cope at night when all 3 dogs would want to sleep with her. The puppy is still very naughty but very cuddly! Milly was ill whilst we were away...she bit a toad and went into anaphylactic shock. Fortunately Olga managed to get hold of the vet who came and took her in and saved her life. We think it was touch and go but, by the time we came back, she was fit and well and we didn't realize until told, what had happened.



We go back to carry on work on our school rules and regulations with the lawyer. We also want to look at other issues that arose from our conference like security and new ways of using computers in the class. We also have pupils returning from various courses in the UK and the USA and want to know how beneficial they were. The year usually goes very quickly once we are into August. It's usually a mad rush to the end of the year. We are also planning a staff retreat and a secondary retreat for September.

The young lad, Arlan Fick is still missing, kidnapped by rebels in the north of the country. It's now over 3 months but many people reckon he is still alive. Please continue to pray for him.

We've had a good rest now and school started again on Monday July 28th. We'd had 3 weeks off by then but it felt like so much longer as we had packed so much in.

Annexe

During the break the Anglican churches in Asuncion held a Youth camp and we were very pleased to hear that 16 ex pupils from the annexe school went along to it. It went very well and we hope to have another meeting for the ex pupils in the annexe school. The Chacarita area is still flooded although in other parts of the country the water is starting to go down. We reached almost 100 pupils having had to move which meant almost half the children in the annexe school were victims of the floods. One good piece of news is that the annexe pre school bathrooms were completely refurbished in the July holidays thanks to a church in Ireland and they look so much better.

Our college pupils were encouraged to help the annexe and we were able to send down food, clothing and plastic to cover makeshift roofs. The older pupils also went to visit the various charities they support and, in some cases, this was to more flood victims.



Many thanks for all your support.
God bless and love
Gwen and Mags x

Visits to the Homes

