

Apologies, more buildings! This is one of the first adobe houses built in Paraguay. Read on!

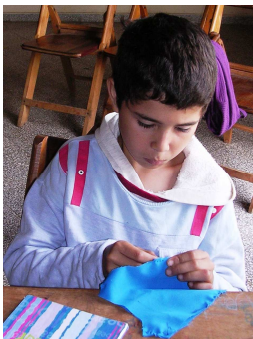


My trip to the Chaco with the English agricultural project worker and a couple visiting from a supporting church was action packed. I took in more new information about the way of life there in 4 days than at any time before. We saw the first houses built of locally made adobe bricks, made possible by donations through Mission Paraguay for which I'm the Paraguay co-ordinator. The first house, shown here, is for the teacher in Karandá. The community has specially designated this for her because they honour her. She told us how thrilled she was and couldn't thank everyone enough. She has great plans for a garden with fruit trees. In Santa Fé, another adobe house is for TB patients and the next one is promised to the community midwife for her work.

The Indian people live in flimsy shacks made of tree trunks which are extremely prejudicial to health and now, of course, every woman in the locale wants an adobe house. However, adobe brick making is in its infancy here and the learning process can't be rushed so patience is needed. **Please pray** for Chris, the promoter of the scheme, and for patience and understanding on the part of the Indians who so badly want better houses.

The basket project is pending. The American contact fizzled out but now there might be an opportunity in Brazil. The Rosa Kué ladies had sold what they prepared for me because they needed the money and my visit was delayed. Just as I was thinking 'What now?' another woman appeared with much smaller baskets more suitable for export. There will be a way, and patiently waiting is how to find it!

We recently had a violent electrical storm in the city. There were fireworks when the phase three electric cable opposite my house was hit. Thankfully, before that moment, I had remembered to unplug the computer, fridge and lights. Without power for nearly 5 days, I realized I had taken electricity for granted. Life changes when you go to bed at 9.00 and get up at 6.00 in order to welcome the daylight. It's difficult fending off mosquitoes in the dark. I had to discipline myself not to look longingly at fans and the washing machine. I am writing this in a hurry under a dark sky with another storm forecast, possibly ready for a repeat performance.



All this rain has been **an answer to your prayers**. The Paraguayan government responded to the extreme drought conditions, taking water and food to the Indian communities. Now the water cisterns which families can draw on in the months to come are filling up. This is the best news. The rain also cooled down some of my long walks and bus journeys to the sewing clubs. Last Saturday, 20 children excitedly began sewing drawstring bags, with the promise of embroidering their initials on when complete. As with the mothers, there are few activities especially for them and they are hugely enthusiastic about these simple tasks which are a joy to see and prepare for. I'm amazed to be involved in these new projects which are bringing so much life and blessing to some of the most neglected people here. 'The Lord is good: His mercy and loving-kindness are everlasting, His faithfulness and truth endure to all generations' Psalm 100 v5

Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement.