

Train to Teach

In the 1990's the Board of Governors of St Andrew's College in Asuncion, Paraguay, along with the Diocese had a vision to build Paraguay's first Christian infant teacher training College (FEISA) as part of the Evangelical University of Paraguay. The aim of the college would be to train teachers to a higher standard and then pass that knowledge on to their pupils. That vision became a reality in 2000 when FEISA opened its doors to 23 students.

In 2005 the indigenous Enxet community in Yatnata requested help from FEISA to improve their Preschool education. Indian teachers have no formal teacher training, the communities have no money for educational resources and children receive on average only 2 years schooling.



The photograph above shows an indigenous home, where there is no electricity, running water or sanitation. A teacher commented that: "The community has been suffering from poor teaching in Preschool for years. Without a firm educational foundation it is very difficult for the children to advance in their learning. This project is wonderful and just what the community needed for its children to progress in their education."

ADULT LITERACY AND NUMERACY - "EDUCATE A WOMAN AND YOU EDUCATE A COMMUNITY"

The women in Yatnata have realised that in order to help and support their children in their education, they themselves need to know how to read and write and do basic mathematics. FEISA has produced the materials in their Indian language (Enxet), and is providing all the materials (booklets for all the "students", notebooks, pencils, rubbers, colouring pencils etc). They are also training two volunteer teachers from the community to teach the programme as well as providing supervision and support.

Currently there are 30 adults (23 women and 7 men) who are coming 3 days a week for literacy classes. The community is extremely excited about the project. A woman who was taught to read and write said through her tears "It's like I was blind and now I can see."

FEISA is providing two training sessions for the volunteer teachers and monthly support and supervision. They also do an evaluation in November with the community to see how successful the project has been and how they can improve it. If successful, FEISA hope to take it to other indigenous communities where they have already had requests from women desperate to learn to read and write.

Approximate monthly costs are: £33.00



TRAINING INDIGENOUS TEACHERS AND MOTHERS TO IMPROVE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN YATNATA

This is a continuation of a programme that started last year in the indigenous community of Yatnata. In response to a request from the mothers in the community who were very concerned about the education of their children, FEISA provided an 8 month training programme for teachers and mothers in "Early Years" teaching



methods as well as furniture and educational games and resources for the classroom. The impact was overwhelming and the community asked us to continue this year.

This year FEISA has produced a preschool programme with lesson plans, worksheets, songs, games and educational activities and is continuing the programme with the indigenous teacher and 10 volunteer mothers. There are currently 18 children benefiting from the programme.

Approximate monthly costs are: £235.00

TRAINING INDIGENOUS WOMEN TO IMPROVE NUTRITION, HYGIENE AND CHILD CARE IN THE HOME

The indigenous women in the community of Yatnata approached FEISA last year asking for help in how to raise their children and manage their home. They really want to give their

children the best start in life but realise they know little about healthy eating, hygiene, education and child care.

FEISA started a scheme in April 2007 where the women are taught about all these things using resources found in their own environment. The cost of this project will be low as FEISA plan to use natural resources they already have in their community.



They also plan to build a traditional community oven out of bricks and clay to teach the community to produce different types of food and to encourage the women to work together for the good of their community and their children. At least 30 women will participate in this project and this in turn will benefit all their children - at least 60.

Approximate monthly costs are: £62.00

TRAINING INDIGENOUS TEACHERS AND MOTHERS TO IMPROVE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN EL ESTRIBO

FEISA has been asked to take a simplified form of the project to the larger and poorer indigenous community of El Estribo. They hope to start the project in May 2007 providing classroom furniture,

educational resources and training for eight schools.



FEISA plan to give three training sessions and monthly support and supervision. The training will be with indigenous

and Paraguayan teachers and hopefully two mothers from every village. Roughly 30 people will receive the training and at least 150 children will benefit from the programme.

Approximate monthly costs are: £700.00

This education and teaching programme by FEISA is making an enormous impact on the lives of some of the poorest and most marginalised people in the world. **Please pray** for safety for the team from FEISA who regularly travel the long distance from Asuncion to the Chaco to assist the people, and for all those who will attend the programmes. Pray also for cultural sensitivity and wisdom in FEISA's relationships with the indigenous communities.

If you feel you would like to prayerfully or financially support this project please contact:

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THE FEISA TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF THE PARAGUAYAN CHACO