

News from the Brices

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Tuesday 6th January 2009

Welcome to new readers

Ed and Marie Brice, SAMS mission partners, serving the Anglican Church of Paraguay both Indians and non-Indians of the Chaco region, pastoring and teaching, adults and children.

Does it work? We were told to include a brief resume of who we are and what we do in these letters. What do you think? As an alternative "Ed and Marie servants of Christ Jesus called to be Mission Partners in Paraguay and set apart for the gospel of God..." if only the Apostle Paul hadn't written something like it before!



We have been cleaning the house, not very interesting but very necessary, especially as we think about a possible move nearer to the Chaco. At the beginning of a new term its also appropriate to **set priorities and plans for our work** so that is what we are doing mostly this month.

Praise the Lord for protection and encouragement during all our travels in the UK, back to S. America and in the last week up to Rio Verde and surrounding Chaco communities. Christmas and New Year are very **busy times for Indian pastors, people returning home after months away** swell the communities.

We drove up on Christmas eve and loaded our old fridge to install in Río Verde and the new TV. We also took a donation of food and mosquito nets to some of the older people in the Makxawáya community. On Christmas evening, in Yatnata community, Ed shared the preaching. Boxing day evening in Yatnata over 200 people gathered on the football pitch, to watch a DVD, on the new TV bought with gifts we received, of the Christmas story. Pastor Elvio was especially concerned to keep the young people occupied and away from the temptations of near-by Río Verde. On New Years Eve we used the same DVD for a small group of children and relatives in Río Verde.



This trip was an attempt to inform ourselves of developments and challenges facing the churches, to help us to prepare our programme for the rest of the year. Please continue to **pray for us as we try to develop relevant teaching programmes** both for children and Pastors and church leaders. Continuing with the week long **Bible school in Río Verde at the beginning of February.**

Praise the Lord that **Neill has passed his exams to become a Public Translator.** He has now left his school teacher job and is living with us again in Asunción. Pray for him at the start of this new career and as he thinks of continuing his University studies.

We plan to visit Concepción later this week to see if it might be the place we should base ourselves to better serve the Chaco church. We will also be able to talk through our plans for this year with Bishop Andrés.

With all our love Ed, Marie, Neill, Javier and Derek.

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