



A Christmas Message from the Recalde Family

As we arrive at the end of another year, we have experienced at first hand God's constant faithfulness and abundant provision. The ministry here continues to progress and for this we first of all want to thank God for His goodness, His faithfulness and His mercy throughout the year. At the same time we want to thank all our brothers and sisters in England and Ireland because without you this ministry could not continue. For this reason, we, as a family, together with all the girls in the Home, always pray for each one of you. We want to share with you that our progress has not only been in terms of buildings and material things, but in the lives of each of the girls in the Home. We have seen, through their daily Bible studies and devotional times, how they have matured spiritually as Christians.

What most fills us with pride and joy is that Sandra, the oldest of the girls in the Home, was voted best student in the school. This is particularly significant as she will represent the school in many events throughout the whole country next year for the

bicentenary celebrations of the independence of Paraguay.

We want to thank each one of you for the sacrifice you make for us. We see in you an example of excellence in all you do for the work here and this is a great support to us as it inspires us also to give the best of ourselves as we work together for the children and young people of Zuyquyho. Our desire is that God would bless you abundantly and that in this Christmas season, time to share with all our families, you would experience the fullness of God's love.

We love you very much from Paraguay.

The Recalde Family



Thanks: Osvaldo Recalde is the Director of Operation South America in Paraguay. He is shown above with his wife Marie-Luisa and daughters Andrea and Rocio. Without these two wonderful people the work of OSA would not take place and the wellbeing of many young people in the village of Quyuquyho would not be as assured. Neither would their efforts be rewarded without the work of the many people in UK who give so generously of their time, effort and money. Thank you so much!

Unique OSA: Those of you who have supported us for some time will be aware that we live a somewhat hand-to-mouth existence in that we don't have large reserves of cash. By the same token we pride ourselves on having very few overheads. We don't have offices or staff and all our volunteers are expected to fund themselves. Some would say that this is financially naïve and may be so but we follow Osvaldo's example and, as a Christian charity, rely on a higher authority to provide; and provide he does!

No pictures required: In recent months we have had several crises including an overflowing septic tank at our children's home. The original was built for family use, not a family of 20, so we had to have it emptied. Like many anomalies in Paraguay it proved very expensive, so much so that we built a bigger one for the cost of emptying the original!

Four by Far: Despite our best efforts to secure a reliable vehicle the new (12-year-old) Toyota 4 x 4 has presented a few problems, mainly electronic, and we have had to source replacement parts from both USA and UK. Not all have been successful. Ideally we would like to secure a newer, more reliable vehicle but costs are prohibitive in a country where corruption is endemic. We

recently had to pay several hundred dollars to retrieve from customs a vehicle part which had to be sent to USA for servicing. Given that it originated from a Paraguayan registered vehicle you might be forgiven for thinking that it should not be subject to any form of import duty. Wrong!!!



In both of the above cases generous individuals and groups came to the rescue and provided the necessary finance. However, the transport problem persists. Osvaldo regularly has to travel to Asuncion, a round trip of 350Km and a reliable vehicle is essential. We don't often put out a general appeal but if any of our readers has contacts in the motor trade, particularly with overseas links, please get in touch. It has been suggested that we go for a Land Rover like the one above. We're open to suggestions!

Burger, Sir? Like many small settlements Quyquyhó has few facilities where its young people can meet with friends or family and enjoy each other's company in secure surroundings. Thanks to a generous gift and the support of the local mayor, OSA has been able to set up a Lomiteria (Burger Bar) to fill this gap. Situated next to the local Police Station in the centre of the village it will provide an opportunity, at weekends or on special occasions, for the locals to buy burgers and soft drinks and listen to music. Not quite Macdonalds but it's a start. It will be run independently by Marie-Luisa and will provide business experience for a number of young local people.



Open for Business

What's Cooking?



Early Customers

Train to Work: Update 12 introduced the idea of a multi-functional building on OSA property which would provide training opportunities for young people in a number of different areas including IT, needlecraft and possibly vehicle maintenance. We are very pleased to announce that building has started and the foundations have been completed in the last few weeks, as the photo shows. We hope to complete this during the coming year, as funding permits, and to eventually install a computer network, as part of our aim to provide employability skills for young people.

Volunteers: This year our volunteers provided a broad programme of activities for the young people of QQH, including English, Music, Needlework, IT and Art. We hope to extend this each year, particularly to include work-related skills where possible. We are developing strong links with the local school and already provide access to our toy library for children in QQH and surrounding areas.



Foundations for Work >>

<< Pyjama Party



And so to bed: One of our volunteers did a deal with her local supermarket and negotiated new pyjamas for all of the girls at the home. Here they are, wearing the evidence, thanks to Tesco at Wolverton, Milton Keynes.