

WHAT PRICE PROGRESS? For many months we have strived to secure the funding and support needed to establish our organisation both in UK and Paraguay and to buy land, materials and transport to help make the vision a reality. Previous issues of Update have tracked our successes as we became a registered charity in UK, then an international charity recognised in Paraguay and eventually purchased property in Quyuquyhó. All this happened in addition to supporting the Recalde family to feed the poor children of Quyuquyhó and the surrounding area. Nevertheless, only a month ago, the committee were debating how we could limit our plans, as the legal costs of registration, land purchase and the variable exchange rates had nearly exhausted our funds, even though, through your support, we were more than halfway to our initial target of £20,000.

PRAYER POWER Being a practical bunch of folk we set about organising a barbecue for our local supporters, with a view to encouraging regular giving, as well as one-off gifts. However, as a committed Christian group we did not forget our prayerful duties. The day of the barbecue dawned as fair as a June day in Britain could, with dubious weather forecasts. Nevertheless we sat, waited and prodded the hot coals. A loyal group of supporters came and gave generously. Previously an innocuous envelope had arrived but was put on one side due to our preparations. Imagine our delight when, on opening it, we found a cheque big enough to help us exceed our first year target. Call it coincidence? We don't!

SO, WHAT NOW? Well please don't think that we don't need your support any more - we do! A small team is now out in Quyuquyhó, preparing the land for planting crops and keeping some chickens and pigs, initially. We are also in the process of building a small house for a caretaker and converting an existing building to become the new Comedor or dining area. This will need a new extended roof, an oven, storage and preparation facilities and permanent covered seating for the children to eat. We hope to bring you photos of the progress made in the next edition of Update.



MOVING STORY Some of the additional money donated has been used to improve our communications in Paraguay. Osvaldo regularly has to go to Asuncion, the capital, for supplies or to contact us, as the worldwide web has yet to reach Quyuquyhó. He also travels widely around the local region, visiting the children and their parents and collecting wood for the open fires that they cook on at the Comedor. For many grateful parents this is one of the few ways they can contribute to their children's welfare. The 15 year old 4-seater Mitsubishi 4x4 has now been replaced by a 12 year old 9-seater Chevrolet (they make them last in Paraguay!), so Osvaldo can transport children, provisions and volunteers in more realistic numbers and greater safety (hopefully inside the vehicle!).



If you would like to support Operation South America on a regular basis, please contact us using one of the methods below and we will send you a standing order to complete.