

Journey WITH REBEKAH IN PARAGUAY

8/17/2011

Wow, it's been a while since I've written. Hope to find you doing well! I'm not sure about you, but it seems the Lord never fails to show me areas of needed growth. It hurts, but I'm thankful that He is faithful to do so and that He really patiently makes me more like himself. Probably this side of heaven we are all somewhere in that growing process.

Several weeks ago, Jenna and I took a trip to the Chaco...the dry, desert area of Paraguay where most of the tribal groups are found. We stayed in Filadelfia, where there is a large settlement of German Mennonites. In fact it would be a very hard place to learn Spanish as German is the predominate language there. The Mennonites have done a nice job of developing that area with their hard work ethic. From Filadelfia, we also visited two tribal locations where there are missionaries working. The missionary family who works with the Manjui people were our guides for the week. They



took us to see the Manjui people for two days. One afternoon while there, we took a walk in the bush with three Manjui women in search of a plant they call "iwazi." The leaves of the iwazi plant, once chewed, make your mouth happy, though the plant is harmless =) Once we had gathered enough of the plant, we headed to one of the Manjui women's homes and watched her prepare a drink made from the leaves of this plant. In addition to the iwazi leaves, water is added, lots of salt, sour cactus fruit and hot pepper...makes for an interesting drink, slimy but quite good! The drink is to be scooped out with your



hands and eaten. There is a growing church among the Manjui. Currently the Manjui translation is in its final stages and the Manjui leaders will in the next few years be handed all leadership responsibilities. The older couple to the left are believers and both are hard workers. She makes bags out of a plant fiber and he is a honey hunter as well as working long hours in his garden. The other indigenous group we visited is the Sanapana. The difference between the two groups was surprising to me...physical appearance as well as a totally different language and culture. The beliefs of the Sanapana

people make picture taking a little complicated, therefore I have no pictures of them.

I continue working at the day care; it's been nice to get to know the kids and the 'tias' (helpers) a lot better. We had a few of the 'tias' over not long ago - two Paraguayans, one Mennonite (from the Chaco) and one German. Every year a group of German volunteers come and volunteer at the day care. Last week the old group left and the new group of Germans have just arrived. It's a good way for the Germans (and me) to learn Spanish as they volunteer all day with children! Thank you for your love and support, Rebekah



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