



October 2017

Hi Family, Friends and Supporters,

This time we invite you to come along on a special trip to three towns in northern East Paraguay, bordering with Brazil: Capitan Bado, PJC and Bella Vista Norte. Two of them are frequently in the news for drug dealing, money laundering and killings. We'll drive through areas where recent kidnapping have taken place, but will stay out of the area where "campesinos" restrict entry of any police or church. During this four days journey, we hope to place our short program on a few radio stations in each town and find local Christians to do the follow-up. Scary? Yes! But we sense that this trip is from the Lord.

In preparation we get the contact information of local pastors, find radio stations and hotels online, prepare a road map and get necessary materials ready.

First stop is in Chore, at Toribio and Sulma Franco's place. The recordings of his messages need improvement. He wants it simple. "No fancy equipment...at my age," he remarks. So, we leave him again with only a small recorder and the instruction how to use it for best quality. He will continue to produce the 3-min messages, which we now offer to radio stations and distribute by WhatsApp to an increasing number of people.

Preparing for our Trips:

- Defining the places or areas we need to go to.
- Find radio stations online that might take our programs.
- Look for a contact in the area to connect us with stations, churches and where to stay.
- Prepare material to take along.
- With the help of GPS define and calculate a possible route and how long it might take us.
- Pray for God's guidance and protection.

Our GPS indicates to go through the colony Rio Verde. There Edward Heinrichs runs a small station for the new Mennonites church, with programs mostly in Low German, but he wants to include our Guaraní and Spanish programs to the Latin people in the area of the colony. Who knows, the EPP who by now keep 5 people hostages, including some Mennonites, might hear the Gospel on this station or from stations in towns nearby, where kidnapping has taken place.



Next stop on the way to our first boarder town, Capitan Bado, is at Marciano and Élidea Diaz', area of Karapaí. Marciano, originally from one of the EMC churches in our area around Campo 9, moved into this remote territory for economic reasons. Without much preparation, he became a pastor. Little did we know how encouraging our visit would be to him and his wife. He connected us with two stations in the area. We pray our messages will be heard by "campesinos" who otherwise don't allow any police or church to come in.

Need for Integrated Programing:

We are struck again by the vast difference between a few major land owners and the majority who have very little, if any at all. The tension between the two is dynamite. Both need a different way of thinking. How can we support those who are demanding help by force or choose other illegal ways to get money? We are convinced that the best way is to teach the Gospel in an integrated (wholistic) way, in a culturally relevant context, coupled with practical teaching in every area of life. Maybe even combine it with hands-on economic help, partly already provided by the government or by Christian initiatives like CODIPSA. Radio programs or short audios/videos in the Guaraní language are essential. Pray with us for someone with this vision and preparation.

On the new paved road, we arrive in Capitan Bado early. Interesting town, separated from Brazil by just a street. We'll cross there for supper, later. Pastor Genaro Roa, our contact in town, invites us to stay for the night, "to have more fellowship". He knows the owners of the radio stations and takes us to 4 of them. Because of his ministry in town he's respected and well known. What blessing to work together!



Next day, we go north toward PJC, along the border. We take the bumpy country road on the Paraguayan side, parallel to a paved road on the Brazilian side. On the way, we unexpectedly find several radio stations in a town called Zanja Pyta, two of which agree to air our programs.



Our contact in PJC not only connects us with radio stations, but also with a Christian, Gloria Peña, whom Esther disciplined many years ago in Caaguazú. She happened to be in town for a visit from Brazil. What a joy to see them recount God's faithfulness even in times of troubles and trials during the 25 Years since they hadn't seen each other.

Driving a paved road through Brazil, we get to Bella Vista Norte, an isolated Paraguayan town, separated from Brazil by the river Rio Apa. Pr. Daniel López, our contact, does more than we expected, helping us to get our programs to 4 stations, also for free. The openness towards Christian programs everywhere is incredible.



Tired, but with grateful hearts for 16 new stations to air our programs, we return home, enjoying the scenic drive along the way.



We appreciate your prayer support:

- For listeners who hear the Word of God, that they will open their hearts to Jesus.
- For someone with a vision and preparation to produce integrated Christian radio programs.
- Regarding follow-up, we need someone to respond to listeners when they call. More and more are calling or sending voice messages in Guaraní. Most of them are more fluent in Guaraní than in Spanish... but we don't speak Guaraní. So, we are praying for someone who will help us in this follow-up ministry.

Listeners Respond:

"Hola, how are you. I like to know more about God. I am Camila. For some time, I listen to Radio Aguai Poty."

We asked Toribio to call Camila and to tell her about God and Salvation through Jesus. He later told us that she had received Jesus into her heart. Local pastors were contacted to do follow-up.

"I am Cristino (38) from Cruce Raul Peña. I'm a truck driver. If possible, I listen to your program daily together with my family on 107.7 FM from Naranjal... I had everything but then I lost all, due to my lifestyle. I'm in the process of winning back my family. God is restoring us all. Your programs are giving me joy and peace."

Thank you for joining us on this trip and for your interest and support of the radio and teaching ministries in Paraguay. Know we wish you well and pray for you often.

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