



“First the bread then the Bread of Life”



Doug and Becky Neel
1001 E. Easy Ave.
Crockett, TX 75835
936-204-4747
douglas.neel@gmail.com
www.agrimissions.com

“But...What am I going to do?”

Back from the Agrimissions Ag Center in Paraguay which is in a pretty remote part of the country where we had no transportation, television, emails, or telephones—that is unless our phone booth was working which was the big tree at the top of the hill. We did have electricity except for about a day and half and the weather was wonderful except for a “tormenta” (huge storm) the night before we left.

I always wonder what I will be doing when Doug and I go for an “ag trip” since I am not the agriculturist in the family. Well, at the Ag Center in Paraguay, I transplanted tomatoes, mended fences, installed a small bucket kit drip irrigation system, and even learned a bit of surveying and how to do an “Arkansas 90”. We got some planting done; relationships were cultivated; we were able to purchase not only one, but two pair of shoes for the kids—one for summer and one for winter; and we had enough money left that had been donated for the shoes that we purchased some supplies and curtains for the school. In the summer months, it can get up to 110 degrees and the school rooms get unbearably hot; so curtains will be a wonderful blessing.

Most of you probably don’t know this about me, but I love to sweep—weird pastime, huh? Anyway, as I am observing the people who live around the Ag Center, I notice that at least twice a day the women sweep their “yard” which is red dirt; they do this to clean all the animal (how can I say this nicely) “leavings”. Now, at the center, we have beautiful grass that has been planted, hence my first thought was, “Boy, I bet they would love to have lovely green grass instead of red dirt.” But Doug told me the people thought we were crazy for having all that green grass because you can’t see the poisonous snakes or other dangers!

Do we do the same thing in our lives? We plant pretty green grass and have beautiful landscaping outside, because it can hide all the “dirty leavings and refuse” in our lives; but it can also hide dangerous and lethal pitfalls. We all know the scriptures concerning looking good on the outside, but being filthy on the inside. But these scriptures really come alive when God so lovingly and beautifully illustrates these principles so vividly and clearly.

Thanks so much for your prayers while we were gone—they truly lift us up and help us to stand.

FALL 2009

LOOKING AHEAD

October

- *Agrimissions Board of Advisors Meeting in South Carolina
- *The Stonebridge Community, Tennessee
- *IHOP-Kansas City, MO
- *Visit supporters in Texas

November

- *Ecuador with SIM
- *A New Grandbaby!

December

- *ECHO Conference-Florida
- *Urbana 2009, St. Louis, MO

Thanks to Monte Rector for organizing a great weekend for us with Hill Country Church in San Marcos, TX and with friends of Agrimissions from Staples and Sequin.

A special thanks to Grace Church in Alexandria, LA for allowing us to share the ministry of Agrimissions.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Ecuador—Olge’s family (the family baptized in March) is being persecuted for helping start and being part of the house church in Mollipamba. Pray for their protection.
- *Agrimissions—Please pray for workers. We are receiving requests almost daily and do not have the workers to answer them.

The Requests Keep Coming In

In July, Agrimissions was interviewed by Mission Network News. (See article at <http://mnnonline.org/article/12905>). When asked what our greatest need was at this time, we responded with workers, workers, workers! Since our last newsletter, Agrimissions has received requests for assistance from India (2), Cameroon, Malawi, Egypt, and Myanmar. This only adds to our list of Bangladesh, Thailand, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Togo, Belize, Ukraine, Chile, and Liberia. And last but not least our own United States of America.

Plus, we continue to provide ongoing assistance to the Agricultural Center in Paraguay, to SIM in Ecuador, and the story we highlighted in last month's newsletter, working in Costa Rica with exploited children.



We be STYLIN'

The boys were much more willing to "show off" their new shoes; the girls were much shyer.

"The more I look after others, the less I look at myself and my problems. The less I look at myself the more I look at God, then it is easier for Him to work in and through me."

J. Heath Neel

Currently, Agrimissions has a staff of five. One who is preparing to retire in February; two who have just completed their required training; and the two of us—Doug and Becky. So you can see why we are asking you to join us in prayer that those who feel called to agricultural missions will consider joining the Agrimissions Team.

Finally, our location in Crockett, Texas is to establish an international headquarters for the ministry and a training center where we will train and prepare those who are called. This is a great undertaking but we are convinced that this is where God has moved the ministry of Agrimissions for today. If you discover anyone who senses they have a call to the mission of God, tell them about the ministry of Agrimissions.

Susannah Wesley School-Quinta Linea, Paraguay

(Agrimissions - more than just plowing dirt and punching cows)

This past June Doug was in Paraguay and while checking on the gardens and agricultural club at the Susannah Wesley School (located about 500 meters from the agricultural center) he noticed many of the children were not in attendance. After quizzing the director of the school, he learned that the children were not in school due to the cold weather (it's winter in June in Paraguay), a lack of proper footwear, and long walks to school barefooted. So, he promised the director he would return in August with enough money to buy all the children a pair of shoes.

For a couple of months everywhere we went we told the story of shoes for the children. And so, we were asking God for a couple of hundred bucks. My goodness, did He ever multiply the request. After all was said and done, over \$850.00 was donated to what became known as the "Shoes Project".

The children of Trinity UMC summer VBS (Ridgeville, SC) made this project the focus during the week and raised over \$600.00. Our grandchildren (Cade and Cole) donated \$27.00 from their lemonade stand profits. And, several individuals made donations toward the project. It was exciting to see children reaching out to children.

Because of the generosity of so many, we were able to purchase not one but two pairs of shoes—one for the winter and one for the summer; plus school supplies and curtains for the school rooms. These gifts enabled the school to buy shoes for over 100 children!