

Spending on resources for the Sewing Clubs in Paraguay Sample spends shown through Mission Paraguay involvement 2010

Church of the Redeemer, Zeballos Cue July 2010

Skirt and jacket cloth prepared for 5 day workshop teaching pattern cutting to measurements and machine sewing at Zeballos Cue. Two new irons were bought for clubs in 2010. The cloth is a mixture of container resources and bought to match training or production needs. Only God could arrange that it all matches!



Development

2 of the 5 women had never sewed before. With the boost in confidence and new skills, 4 are now sewing clothes for their families. One lady can make an income from crochet but 2 members of her family have learnt shoulder bag making and are now producing these to boost their incomes. The short talk at the celebration tea was based on the virtuous, industrious woman in Proverbs 31.

The pastor's wife, Regina's biggest hope was to create unity among church members. This was created through closeness with the volunteers, hands-on pattern making and the general joy of making clothes. Five women are now meeting weekly to sew things to sell to help the church raise the £500 contribution they need for their new youth club room.

Caroline's house



Preparing for these training workshops is intensive. I pay extra to Ellie who helps in the house to help me sort resources and organize them for the different sewing clubs: £7.00 per session

Another cost is stationary for pattern making: approx £3 per time



Development Ellie lives in a poor community 25 kms from the city. She has been given cloth and clothes in the past and wants to alter them and make new things. Being part of the sewing activity is helping show her what's possible. A really steady old Singer which I brought out could be the one for her.

St Andrew's church, Asunción: Shoulder bag workshop August 2010



Members of this weekly group asked to learn shoulder bag making. We expected 14 but 20 came from 6 other church groups! Mission Paraguay provided 8 machines, 6 borrowed from the groups and 2 new ones, plus cloth and patterns for 3 different types of shoulder bags. Jude Smith, a volunteer, trialled all the bags in the UK, brought lots of cloth and spent over 10 hours cutting cloth. July volunteers cut patterns intensively over 24 hours.

Development

These two centre workshops were the first time anyone could remember women from all the different churches meeting together to enjoy a practical workshop and learn a new, marketable skill. The build up and enthusiasm was tremendous. As soon as people heard about it they wanted to come. The scripture verse for this workshop was Matt 25.21 (parable of the talents). 10 of the participants are now making bags to boost their own incomes. Most have important ministries in their churches. With the new focus on tithing and support of pastors, these home enterprises have come along at just the right time. The Lord knows it all!

St Andrew's church, Asunción: Clothes making workshop August 2010

13 people from our two centre churches learnt how to make and cut patterns and sew garments to measure. Sally Bartlett gave a talk on 'Our creator God and our creativity' Job 8.10. Everyone brought something they had made or been given to show. We shared a lunch together. The day was intense, full on learning! Comments like 'This is spectacular' and 'I'm learning so much' were heard throughout the day.



Development 4 women brought their own machines, hoping to learn how to understand and use them. Besides these, many at the day could now teach others the same. Building on experience gained at the workshops, 2 of these have recently been given machines for the first time. Juana, pictured here right, runs Esperanza Foster Home. She has been longing to learn to sew for years. She has time on her hands in the evenings. Now she is making all kinds of things and successfully finding her own markets – a micro enterprise in

the making. She told me 'Thank you from my heart for this chance and the tools to make it possible'.

St Mathew's church, Rio Verde August 2010

1 modern machine and 1 beautiful hand machine with haberdashery, cloth and patterns for a child's top and skirt were used to teach 2-3 women the basics of garment and bag sewing. **Development** Francisca, the Paraguayan lady with sewing experience who could be a leader is not available for a while. We are looking to see who else could take responsibility and how further training could be given.

General spending: main items

Sewing machines

5 Janomes bought in the UK with gifts from SAMS Ireland

5 Brother machines bought in Py: approx £200 each

6- 8 old reconditioned machines brought in containers, usually needing service/repair in Paraguay on arrival: £20 - £70

Plugs changed and oil/paintbrush kits for maintenance: £2 per machine

Irons

3 new ones brought from N. Ireland

2 bought in Paraguay: £8.00 each

Taxis and transport

Outside of Mission Paraguay time, I rely on taxis for taking machines for servicing/repair and cloth to workshops: £3 - £5



Angela at Mirador was given an old second hand machine 2 years ago. She uses it constantly to help pay her way. She and her handicapped son paint and sew accessories on ready made T shirts. She needs a newer machine. I can lend her a reconditioned machine in the meantime. That makes 4 journeys!

Cloth and haberdashery

Thanks to the generosity of churches and what has come in containers, I have to buy relatively little. For every one-off workshop, it might come to £20 – £30.

The cloth bank is a new scheme we're trying this year. It should resolve two problems: how to help those on low incomes who are sewing to support church ministries buy cloth at an accessible price for their own use. This enables them to sew to support their families as well. Through this they gain budgeting, costing and marketing expertise.

I can buy cheap cloth between £2- £3 a metre and sell it to the home sewers who are supporting church ministries for 75p a metre. This can't be perpetual, just long enough for the women to make enough to become self-sufficient.

Mission Paraguay workshops

Paying translators – approx £30 for a week of afternoons plus bus fares

Special one-off training workshops 2010

Making clothes and sewing techniques with lunch: £40

Shoulder bag workshop: Computer and photocopy costs: £15 - £20, Cloth £15

The total spending for July and August 2010 workshops, including new machines, was approx. £450