

*Ed and Marie Brice, CMS mission partners, serving the Anglican Church of Paraguay both Indians and non-Indians of the Chaco region, pastoring and teaching, adults and children.*

“like living stones, ... built into a spiritual house ... offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” <sup>1</sup>Peter 2:5



This heap of old iron is still all we have to show. It has proved more difficult than we expected to find people prepared to put up our roof again in Río Verde. Being the Chaco estimates range from four to six times the going price in the city. However, God willing, the three day job will be done at the **beginning of June**. The human builders may have been idle but God's building continues to grow.



Good Friday provided a good opportunity to go visiting. I was hoping to see **Roque Mendez**. He is related by marriage to **Dario and María**, who we hope to receive as members of San Mateo later this year. Mendez' wife, Azucena, had told me that he was interested in the gospel and, since he only returns to Río Verde every three months, it was an opportunity not to be missed. Roque, a stocky, thick set man, was reluctant at first but quickly warmed to the conversation. He said that for a number of years he had been a practising Christian until he and his friends turned to drink and womanising. He wanted to recommit himself but felt that the obstacles were too great. At that point we invited **Azucena** to join us and, to my surprise, she responded positively to the gospel message and gladly committed her life to Christ. **Marie** now visits her regularly. Pray for Mendez' re-commitment. **Cirilo and Raquel** are another couple from Río Verde nearing the end of the Abundant Life course. We hope they too will be received into membership later this year. A number of Cirilo's sisters have attended church, on and off. Raquel's sister-in-law, **Francisca** has been a member for a number of years. But over Easter Francisca called us to see her eldest daughter, **Noella**. She was behaving strangely, we later discovered she had received death threats and been cursed by Cirilo's younger sister, **Mirta**. The motive was rivalry for the affections of a young man. Please pray for both these young women and their respective families, that they may know God's power to free them from the power of evil and jealousy and bring them forgiveness and peace.

Thank you for your prayers for the pastors studying the **SEAN Matthew course**. Since we last wrote I have met twice with Pastor **Mario Romualdo**, however, has had to move away in search of work to support his family. **Elvio and Teodoro**, in Sombrero Piri, continue to find it difficult to give time to study. **Remigio** has just finished translating the devotional Bible study materials into énxet, for our next planned encounter with all the pastors and some of the lay workers in Río Verde at the **end of June**. Please pray for the rest of the preparation for this event, for Bishop Andrés and Pastor Agustín who will be helping us. The subject will be on Christians in society and especially politics, as elections approach.

*With all our love in Christ Ed and Marie*