

Paraguay has a new member who speaks English, German, Spanish, and Guarani

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We are now located in our new center. It's a five-minute walk to the center of town and about 10 minutes to the main part of the university. It has a beautiful view of the city, and the constant sound of chickens, roosters scratching, carpenters working, buses, etc. reaches us, but it all seems to blend together into a low rhythmic roar. Unlike most South American capitols, Asuncion is small (half a million people), poor, and primitive, a far cry from Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Rio, Caracas, or Lima.

I enjoy very much the simple poor people, and I also feel God's love for them. Paraguay has been oppressed by Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, but once, 150 years ago, it was the wealthiest nation in Latin America. Paraguay had the first railroad, first telegraph, first banking system. But when it was attacked by Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil in 1860, the five-year war destroyed her completely, leaving her with only 30,000 people, 90 percent of whom were women and children.

A later attack by Bolivia killed 30,000 Paraguayan men in the largest war in the continent's history. Paraguay has never recovered and is now said to be the poorest nation in Latin America, along with maybe Nicaragua.

We have a new member who speaks Spanish, English, German, Dutch, French, and of course Guarani. Together we will open a small language institute and teach our Philosophy of International Communication. It's easier to find female members because women outnumber the men seven to one.

On Saturdays, when I don't have a teaching appointment, I do baseball witnessing, in keeping with the Yankee Stadium spirit. There is a league with four teams, composed mostly of Americans and higher-level Paraguayans with some culture and who know English. I've met several of our students at the ballgame. My team made me the pitcher.

I thought of possibly using a Korean name for our language institute, but most of the small grocery stores are owned by Koreans. There is a Sun Dispensa, a Myung Dispensa, and a Moon Dispensa. So, if I used the name Tong-ii it would sound like another Korean grocery store. I am thinking of Sherlock Holmes Institute of Idioms only because it seems like it would attract interest!