

Hi to all our friends!

Well, the great car hunt has come to an end, and for us a very blessed and positive end!!! We have seen clearly how God has guided us and provided for us, in an amazing and timely manner.

After many days of searching, first Frank by himself and then together with me, we finally came upon a smallish car lot, that impressed us first off by its cleanliness. Now that may sound funny to you, but here it is rather strange, because in the main, people are not concerned about being “a tidy kiwi”! The next thing that was strange but good was the attitude and character of the salesman. After getting to know him we found out that he is a descendant of Russian Jews, which is also very unusual here. He was educated in one of the large Evangelical private schools here in Asuncion. Amazingly, everything he told us actually checked out, which for here is also very strange, as most will lie to you in order to get the deal. We found a model that we had already been looking at, but this one was newer and had less mileage, however he came down in price to lower than others of the same kind. He encouraged Frank to take it to our own mechanic, which we did, and everything checked out great, except the rear suspension which was in need of replacement. He then knocked another 300 dollars off the price to more than cover that.

The final thing – most cars here have stickers of the idols that the people trust in, and this car didn't. What it did have was a blue sticker saying “PAZ”, which means PEACE. And God gave both of us peace that this was the right vehicle for us.

As we were preparing the money (which by the way we were able to extract safely) a small delay came up with the paperwork. So we were unable to pick it up on the Friday. However, God had another surprise in store for us. Our friends from the New Tribes Mission were having a camp/conference, and at the last minute some people had cancelled, and so they asked us if we would like to attend. WOW!

So for four days last week, we were incredibly blessed by being included in a group of amazing warriors of the faith, humble yet strong, broken yet willing for God to use them wherever and however. We listened to their stories, shared their tears and joys, our kids played with their kids, we relaxed in an environment of acceptance and mutual understanding and all in all had a really special time.



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Friday we returned to Asuncion where we were able to complete the paperwork to obtain the car. Saturday Frank was able to get a roof rack fixed to the car, and now we have been using it to get our supplies for the next month. It is a Suzuki SUV, 4WD and only 4 years old. It has had all its maintenance kept up to date, and should give us many miles of trouble free journeys.

So we are praising God for his goodness, and we are thanking him for the part so many of you had in this whole thing, praying for us and giving generously. A

special verse for you all: “God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

God knows and sees, and will bless you for your faithfulness! With much peace, we greet you all with “SHALOM” in this festive season,
Love from Francisco, Joanna, Nicki, Melanie and Benji.