

As an addendum to our 2009 Advent Letter, Sharon McCririe, SAMS Associate Missionary, Asuncion, Paraguay, shares more stories and photos of God at work through the drug rehabilitation ministry of *La Puerta*:



The team of *La Puerta* presented our ministry to drug addicts to those whom we had gathered from our immediate *barrio* (neighborhood). Commissioner Luis (second from left), the police chief of the neighborhood, joined our panel discussion. We followed up the presentation by giving to each one who attended from the neighborhood the year-long devotional booklet, "*La Buena Semilla*" (The Good Seed). We sensed that *Comisario* Luis will read it and is open to follow up...Father, water the seeds planted at the meeting and bring *Comisario* Luis to faith and commitment to you.



Before the neighborhood meeting was called to order, we turned our agenda over to the Lord and asked that he carry out his agenda through us. The Minister of Community Affairs from the Ministry of the Interior cancelled out from coming at the last minute because of political instability threatening the country. The press and the television stations didn't show for the same reason. The *Concejel* (the neighborhood representative on the City Council), who has a son recovering from insanity due to drugs, was an hour late because as he put it, "There was nothing wrong with my car, but the engine overheated and it stopped. I raised the hood, it cooled down and I

came on. I believe the devil didn't want me to make it and he got in the engine."

After the *Concejal's* impassioned plea to rise up as neighbors and do our part to stop the downward spiral of addiction, he prayed accepting the Lord Jesus as his Savior.



Sally Bartlett, wife of the Anglican Diocese of Paraguay, talks with the *Concejal* after the presentation telling him that she shares with him his fears and his hopes for his son who still struggles against strong desire to escape into drugs. His son is a miracle story. No institution, up till *PUAFE* with whom we are partnering with in our ministry, had been able to reach him. His son ended up in the mental hospital and was declared incurable. He now acts and appears normal and is working, but fights against giving into the strong urge to take drugs. So far with the Lord and the power of His Word, the son is overcoming.



This porcelain fruit basket and doll are symbols of hope and restoration. As *La Puerta* fills, the 14 addicts in recovery will be making these miniatures as part of their occupational therapy and to help finance the home.



The Ebenezer stone has written on it: *La Puerta* (The gate). *Jesus salva, sana, y libera* (Jesus saves, heals, and frees).

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9 ESV)

May the Lord become increasingly known as the Door of Salvation and the one who sets the captives free through the ministry of *La Puerta*.