

**Report on the Response of
Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida (IELU)
to Flooding in the Patagonia Region of Argentina
in July 2004**

- Serious flooding occurred in the Patagonia region of Argentina in July 2004.
- By August, IELU Pastor Sergio Utz, who is based in Esquel, was able to return to Cushamen and see the devastation with his own eyes.
- By this time, the Argentina Red Cross and armed forces had started the relief effort.
- The church gather its resources to help the people:
- IELU maintains facilities in the school in Cushamen for its copa de leche (cup of milk) program. These facilities were used by the families who were sheltering in the school.
- Two families lived in the church's chapel in Cushamen for almost three months.
- As the waters subsided, Pastor Sergio visited families in the country, as much as 20 kilometres from Cushamen. Due to the poor conditions of the roads, many had not benefited from the help brought by the Red Cross and others.
- These people needed many things and the church endeavored to help as many families as possible. Items needed included construction materials, medication, food, beds, mattresses, blankets, stoves and firewood. (Wood stoves are used for cooking food as well as heating and are costly items for these families).
- One of the gravest problems was the damage to homes. Many were destroyed and others severely damaged. The houses are mostly made of adobe (bricks of mud mixed with straw and manure). Women often do the hard work of making the bricks. The roofs are of metal sheets, a material that is very costly and inaccessible for these families.
- Following is a list of the families that were helped and the material they received:

Beneficiary	Donation
Marta Pacheco	1 bed and clothes
Nely	1 wood stove, 2 mattresses, clothes, 8 metal sheets
Amelia	9 metal sheets
Norma	12 metal sheets, 10 bags of cement, iron, bricks
Grandmother Laureana	1 bed, 1 mattress, clothes
Haydee	2 single mattresses, clothes, wood stove
Nilda	9 metal sheets
Isabel	7 metal sheets
Tita Caño	Wood stove, clothes
Martha Railef	2 mattresses
Dominga	Wood stove
Grandfather Laureano Millachi	10 metal sheets, lumber, 1 door, 10 bags of cement, 10 bags of lime, nails, wood
Family Ortega	Medicine, transportation, lumber, 10 bags of cement, 10 bags of lime, 1 door
Family Altamirano	Lumber, shoes and wood

Family Cahuimpan	Merchandise, shoes and wood
Don Llamonao	Merchandise, shoes, firewood, lumber and paint
Don Viviano	Shoes, firewood and merchandise
Family Pallalef	Merchandise, firewood, shoes, shingles
Family Grande	Merchandise, firewood, transportation

- Thanks also to the women's secretariat of IELU which provided clothing that was distributed to the following families: Eduardo Cayú; Alicia Napal, Octavio Cayú; Aida Marinao; Guillermina De Aguilera; Elda Railef; Julio Nahuelquir; Héctor Herrera; Joaquín Cayú; Héctor Reyes; Nélide de Nahuelquir; Julieta de Garcia; Juana Carrasco; Tita de Caño, Eva Castro; Grandmother Laureana y Martha Railef.
- Costs also included that of fuel, which was needed to bring help to the different families, most of whom lived in remote areas with roads difficult to travel.
- Our church thanks our brothers and sisters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada who quickly supported the relief effort.
- Also, thanks to the IELU Women's Secretariat, especially Chabela, Nely; Graciela and Ana María, and so many other women who helped collect clothing, utensils, etc.
- Thanks to IELU Executive Secretary Roberto Stein for his help.
- No less important was the collaboration of the men and women in the communities of Cushamen, Esquel and Río Chico to make all of this possible. Special thanks to Rodrigo and Alan who helped build the house of Norma San Martín, and repair the roofs of Amelia and Nélide. To Amelia Meli who accompanied Sergio on many kilometers visiting the different families affected. To Ana Leiva, de Don Leiva, Maria Leiva y de Andrea. To Damián, Mauro, Romina, Nicolás y Alicia who helped build the home of Lorenzo, with the Commission of Help in Rio Chico.
- We thank God for the happiness of knowing that we are not alone, and for his grace and presence with us in this moment.

Many Thanks!!! God Bless You!!!

Pastor Sergio Utz