



Left: New years eve supper at church.



Right: Singing and sharing time on New years eve.

Good afternoon. It is time for my January Mission Report. As you can see I am late again. I have been getting ready for school and simply did not have time. The weather here is hot and dry, we are just not getting the rain we should be getting as it is the rainy season. I am in good health and doing well for which I am grateful.

We celebrated news years at church with a supper and some sharing time. Some of

us played cards until midnight and watched the fireworks around us and then called it a night.

Left and right: the work crew on the first workday at Amanecer near Tres Cruces and Belize colony.





Jan 8 the land purchase near Tres Cruces became official. The new piece of land is called Amanecer meaning Dawn or sunrise. The plan is to start a school and church for old colony Mennonites.



January 12-13 we had a church leadership retreat in Samaipata. It was a small group and I really enjoyed it. It was the same place where we had our MEM retreat in November. On the way back we stopped at some waterfalls and had a picnic lunch. January 14 a group of us spent the afternoon in Belize colony at the Olferts' family home. The couple spent 3 months in a nearby treatment center for addictions. They both became believers while at the treatment center. They are interest in the new school and church. At there house we had a short devotional a

and some singing, followed by volleyball and fasma. Nancy and Benjamin and Bertha have been having weekly bible study at their house. It remains to be seen if they will be part of the new church and school.



Above left: the Olferts buggy on work day.

Top right and bottom left: church leadership retreat.

Bottom right: Our afternoon at the Olfert home.





Left: my new carport with a new brick floor



Right: the new property near Belize colony

January 14 and 15 we had visitors from Paraguay. The couple and their son came to see what we do here and are considering joining our team. January 13 and 14 Gia de Paz (the treatment center) was celebrating their anniversary. I went one evening to hear the singing and testimonies. I think most people who been through the treatment center have incredible stories to share as they are usually at rock bottom by the time they end up there. I am glad that there is a place for people to get help for depression and addiction. The old colony people of course are very opposed to the center because people read the bible in there and often become believers which in their eyes is very wrong.

My 2 months of summer break have been very busy. First, I got a new roof for my car then I got a new ceiling in the house. Later it occurred to me that a floor in the carport would make it useful for many other things as well. So I ordered me

bricks and sand. I laid the bricks myself and I love the end result.



Left: our first church service at Amanecer.

Right: Nancy telling a children's story





January 21 we had our first church service and dedication at Amanecer. They had received almost 7 inches of rain here the week before (we had about 1 inch) so it was very wet. We had our church service under trees in a dry spot followed by lunch. After lunch there was a dedication and a sod turning ceremony. Only the Olfert family came from the colony. We finished the day with some delicious watermelon. We had planned for about 200 people but I think there were just a bit more than hundred. The day went very well and will always be remembered. Top left, right and bottom right: at the dedication service. Bottom left: at the workday.



January 27, I went to Santa Cruz for some shopping. There was heavy traffic everywhere and I rear ended another vehicle. No one was hurt but it was my fault. Fortunately, I had insurance and I called them. They came and dealt with everything. My car is now in the repair shop. It does not need big repairs, but it could still take long. Everyone tells me Bolivianos help themselves to small parts so I hope not too much will be missing when I get the car back. January 18 we our teachers training, and we spent this week getting our classroom ready. I am kind of looking forward to teaching this year but it could still be a difficult year. School starts January 6. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless and take care.



From
Mary
Bartsch

