

May 2023

Dear friends,

I am trying to warm my hands to make typing easier, but it doesn't really work. It's winter in Santa Cruz. Cold and wet and the sun refuses to come out. Temperatures far below my average feel-good level: (don't laugh) 28 degrees.....! At the moment, the temperature does not exceed 16/17 degrees. Joggers, thick sweater, comforter, socks, closed shoes and don't forget the scarf. Am I being dramatic? Of course if you compare this to the USA or Dutch winters. But if your pores are, always open... Okay, I won't whine any longer. I am actually very happy and grateful to be able to experience it all again. I can move around again normally, go to visit someone (like here in this picture with a good friend in Sucre), cross the city by myself with my car... oh my goodness, how I missed that! Believe me: even shopping is now like going to a party.



The Ant unit

Speaking of celebration, last time I told you about the first unit, which was on the verge of partial collapse. Do you remember? We then brought the aunt and children into the guesthouse, because we considered living in the unit too dangerous. But now their own house is almost ready to be inhabited again. A team of men, father and 4 sons, worked very hard and it turned out really well. Just dot the I's, and then the aunt (tia) will clean it, with the help of the children. First, however, spraying must be done to combat a mosquito colony. And of course a check for spiders and similar inconveniences, because they are here in abundance. Recently I found a large tarantula under my sink behind the house 😊, so we better check it out. And when everything is ready, and the kids can live there again, I think we should organize a party. They have earned it, after having lived in a tiny house with 7 people for a few months.



Birthday

By the way, we recently had a party. Fernanda turned 24 (mentally 5-6 years old) and she wanted a barbecue party for her birthday. She bought the meat herself, together with Jose Miguel. Everyone had to come to the dining room, because the weather was drizzly and so the barbecue was placed in the kitchen. She was so happy, our Fernanda! After the barbecue the cake was served, but not before a lot of photos with her were taken.



Good

Now some serious thoughts. Often we say, God works all things together for good (Romans 8:28), but we don't always mean indeed "all things." The good, annoying and bad, lousy, etc. Yet I have experienced the truth of this verse in the past year. Because I had to have an operation, Lydia first came over from the Netherlands to help me. It's so good to have your own daughter with you at such times! Then Stefanie, my second granddaughter, was there for a few weeks. Then I got a private nurse. This was a gift from a very dear brother from the USA. I really felt like a princess. She was always there and when the next operation was coming up, Miranda, our second daughter, came over. What wonderful gifts the Lord gave me in the midst of that year of illness. And it didn't stop there, because Miranda became very inspired by God's work here and she now knows what God wants from her in the future, which she already made clear in the previous newsletter.

Tidy up

My nurse left on the first of February, and there I was alone again after almost a year. You can imagine it took me some time to adapt to it. But fortunately, there is always Hertha, my dog, here in the house. And the children, who come along, and the aunts, who regularly look around the corner. And of course, Jorge, the general manager, and his wife. They regularly come over for coffee, and in the meantime we discuss a few things about Mision Timoteo. For example, we agreed that something had to be done with regard to the nursery that has been operating on the site here for years (and that belongs to a fellow Dutchman). There was a bit of proliferation, so you literally couldn't see the woods for the trees. We discussed this with the owner and a lot has changed since then. Everything looks much tidier and better organized. We are all very happy with that. Volunteers recently came to refurbish the playground equipment and provide it with a lick of paint. That is also necessary from time to time.. It looks a lot better now, and the children can enjoy the playground again to the fullest.



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Dining room project

Unfortunately, we will not be able to open the daycare for the time being. The departmental government has no money. They always pay the salaries of the teachers (except the principal), and part of the meals that are provided. But that is not in sight now. So sad. We are now brainstorming about another project in the same building: a dining room project. The children can do their homework (under supervision) when they come home from school or before school, have a small Bible study and some lessons about hygiene. The idea was to work together with a local church and with the organization 'Compassion.' They often finance such projects. But unfortunately..... Compassion is not working in the Santa Cruz department for the time being. So, we are looking for a solution for the financial part of the plan. It is such a shame that money is always an obstacle. But...if this is a "God idea" it will come to pass! That means praying, seeking, making declaring.

Reserves

We also have another financial issue that needs to be prayed for, worked hard and searched for. The restoration of the first unit with the ant-problem, took all our reserves. That means that we now have a considerable hole in our budget every month. Still, I know it's going to be okay. God has never failed us and so far, for 27 years now, we have never been in debt. He is faithful and the Rock of my faith. ***'Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear'(Isaiah 59:1-2)***

And finally, giving thanks for and prayer points.

Grateful for:

1. The restoration of the first unit.
2. All who always contribute to the children's home, both in money and in kind. People regularly bring something or organize a party, with food and/or gifts for the children.
3. For the loyal efforts of all aunts, the director of Redil and his family and also of Jorge Montoya, our general manager.
4. For my healing.
5. For the fact that everyone can go to school every day again.
6. For Wilbert, our maintenance man, who also teaches the children to solder and about electricity.

Pray for:

1. Health for everyone here. Winter has arrived and dengue has prevailed, which has not completely disappeared.
2. Wisdom for the aunts in dealing with the teenagers. Not an easy job.
3. Pray for the new psychologist to settle in quickly (our previous psychologist was exhausted after six intensive years).
4. The finances. A bridge for the monthly shortfall. This is especially due to the rebuild of the first unit.
5. A very nice summer holiday to all who are so involved with Misión Timoteo.

Will you pray with us? We are so grateful with the amazing supporters we have! God bless you and keep you wherever you go.

Kind regards, much love, Therèse



Please, help us to realize
the homework support project

The ants have been driven away and the restoration of the first unit after the ant problem is almost complete. We would very much like to start a homework support project, but the finances are currently lacking for this. Will you help to get it back up to standard? You can transfer your donation to:
Regions Bank, Misión Timoteo Foundation
2490 Valleydale Road, Hoover, AL 35244
Account #0179846424 / Routing #06 2000019



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If you want to financially support
Therese for her personal livelihood,
you can transfer a donation to her
private account number:
NL 96 RABO 0351185178.
Thank you in advance

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