

Dear Friends and Family,

Happy New Year! It is great to have a fresh page for our lives and to ask the Lord for His guidance to walk closer with Him in this brand new year.

I returned to Oklahoma City from Guatemala on December 20th. I was about to pick up a Butter-Ball turkey for Christmas dinner with daughter Gail, and her family, and son and daughter-in-law, Neil and Carol. It turned out that, Darrell, Gail's husband had already gotten a turkey and he offered to do the cooking this year. We enjoyed a great meal and many moments of laughter as stories were told and memories recalled.

When I was in Guatemala, Gaspar and I continued to edit the Old Testament. We are finishing the Psalms, so there is still much to review, even though it is moving along fairly quickly.

Jesus said; *"Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,"* Matt. 19:14. After three weeks in Guatemala City, I boarded a bus to Concepcion for a week of helping with Vacation Bible School. What fun it was to take individual photos of the children, the teenagers and the mothers. As is my custom, I printed the photos and returned them to the teachers so that the children could attach their own portrait to construction paper and add stickers, ribbons, and artificial flowers as they pleased.

The VBS theme this year was "The Life of Apostle Peter." The children learned action songs and participated in skits in the closing program. One hundred sixty kids and twenty teens attended. VBS was held in the pastor's quarters because the church is in the middle of a building program. Building improvements will include a second floor with eight additional rooms and the first floor assembly room to be enlarged and remodeled.

The mothers of the VBS children provided three meals daily for the teachers, snacks for the kids, and refreshments for all at the closing program, which was held outdoors. While the children were in VBS, the moms joined an afternoon Bible study and worked on a craft of decorating their own basket for holding eggs.

Since Concepcion is in the mountains, the weather was cold! I had an electric heating pad to help me warm up and a kettle for making tea so I was fairly comfortable as I waited for each photograph to slowly print...about 190 in all. I slept in Den's study which is not heated. Josefa, Gaspar's wife, kept asking me if I had enough covers, to which I answered, "Yes, they are so heavy I can't turn over!" Ha! I ate with Gaspar, Josefa and family. They always had the cook stove glowing with firewood and I was welcome to warm up.

Back in Oklahoma my doctor says that I have severe arthritis in some of my joints and it is painful. Please pray with me for decisions as to treatment. I am grateful that I can continue with '*clean-up*' of the Scripture text while I am here. I am planning to use software programs available from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., to edit punctuation, spelling, parallel passages, and check for complete listing of verses and titles.

Thank you so much for partnering with us by prayer and gifts, trusting the Lord for the completion of the Eastern Jacaltec Bible. As Mart Green says, 'The Word is Alive'.
In His Joy,
Jean Stratmeyer



PICTURE CAPTIONS: 1. Jean with two kids. 2. VBS kids painting pictures for their supporters. 3. Chapel construction adding second floor. 4. VBS class, kids working on a craft. 5. Radio station with technician broadcasting. 6. Outside of radio station.