

On the eve of our last day in Los Chiles and the beginning of the AVS Chirripó Challenge, George recounts the week and a half:

This past week has been very busy. We welcomed two Volunteers in Mission on Wednesday evening to volunteer for ten days. Bob Meredith, now with N Reading, MA UMC, was our predecessor with AVS 11 years ago and Tim was a volunteer with us two years ago from St Paul's, Ithaca NY UMC.

We/they jumped right in on Thursday to help install two large pressure tanks at a new well for the La Guaria system to provide much needed additional water for a growing system.



Friday the AVS team started a new house for Kanelo/Brayan, a longtime employee of AVS with great welding skills ;) We worked on his house that day and this past week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday...the progress in one week is amazing! Check out these



photos.

In addition, on Monday and Tuesday we



worked on a fence around the #1 well in Llano Verde to bring it up to the health department specifications...we were digging, welding, concrete mixing and stretching fence

We did manage to have some "play time" on Saturday and Sunday with a tour of an organic vanilla bean/spice farm and a boat tour on the Rio Frío (cold river...although it is not very cold by our standards!). We saw lots of birds, three different

capuchin
Rica has 4

an interesting video of the AVS won a soccer match..with time on the field!



monkeys...howler, and spider (Costa species). We have capuchins! And Tim getting some

And, Nancy adds:

All our bags are packed...saying good/bye is always a deeply heartfelt time of appreciation and trusting that we will be able to come back. We have the excitement of an extra week this year. Saturday the AVS team heads 8+ hours southwest for Casa Mariposa — the guesthouse at the entrance to the trail up Chirripó in San Gerardo de Rivas.



We will acclimate to 5000 ft above sea level and head out on the 10mile trail (with 7500 ft elevation gain) I on Tuesday, March 18 to see how far our legs and lungs can take us! The summit is 12,532 ...here's the e-blast message from AVS...follow us on AVS social media and website and please support the AVS Chirripó challenge with your prayers and donations!!



There will be daily posts so please spread the word .

Pura vida blessings!