

WHAT a week it has been so far.

Flights are never much to write home about and the journey out here was no exception, especially as I slept most of the way to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where I had to change planes.

Three hours at the airport is too much as the shops took all of five minutes to peruse. Still, the coffee was about the strongest I have ever had and kept me awake for the rest of my journey.

I am now settling into life in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The accommodation is Spartan to say the least but I will get around to cheering up my room with some local craftwork in bright colours. For now the row of different colours of A4 paper will suffice for decoration!

As far as work is con-

Letter from South America

by
RUSS PEARCE



cerned the organisation of things is somewhere between chaotic and shambolic. I hope to spend my time visiting the various touristy places around Santa Cruz and produce some sort of guide in English.

There is very little information in English at the moment, so I aim to change that. After all, visitors from many countries will have English as their second language, so they need some assistance.

Each day I have an hour of Spanish lessons with Rosario. She has incredi-

ble patience and is helping me to develop my use of various tenses. All I need to do is improve my vocabulary and I should be okay, provided of course that I can keep up with the pace at which they speak here. It seems that those who can speak English as well speak Spanish much faster than those who cannot!

Another thing I will have to get used to, is the pace of life. Today, I booked a tour for the weekend, which will take me into the jungle and hopefully see some wildlife.

For the first hour I sat in a room with a fellow volunteer and looked at photos. At last, someone came to see us and the whole process, in English, took almost four hours. All we did was agree to the tour, discuss prices and confirm we had the relevant equipment which is needed. Four hours for that!

Finally for this week, the beer! The local brew is pretty good and incredibly cheap, but don't go out drinking into the wee hours with people half your age! I can't keep up!

Russ Pearce will be reporting from Bolivia (internet permitting) on a weekly basis.

What do you think of that?

A collection of devotional thought starters

by **Rev Dr JOEL LEWIS**

"TO live without speaking is better than to speak without living. For the former who does rightly does good even by his silence, but the latter does no good even when he speaks. When words and life correspond to one another they are together the whole of philosophy."

"A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak."

Ecclesiastes 3:7

