



Chile for Christ

News letter and annual report

June 2014



Celebrating the baptism of new Christians on the Argentinean side of the Andes, February 2014

Pastor sells car to pay for new building!



Pastor M. Pérez says “Ciao” to his beloved truck

At a Gift Day service in April, twenty-six members of Osorno’s Filadelfia Church pledged £11,680 towards their new building in the town’s Jardin del Sol district. The first and largest gift of £4,360 was from the senior pastor, Miguel Pérez, who sold his car in order to donate the proceeds to the building fund. He will now have to rely on friends who have a car or the occasional bus service to reach his rural churches, unless someone decides to provide him with a replacement vehicle! He and Ana had already donated *two months* of his previous year’s small salary to the project.

What a challenging illustration of obedience to Jesus’s command in Matthew 6.33: “Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well!”



Pastor Pérez hands his car keys to the new owner



The front of the new building in May

According to the terms on which the Municipality donated the land, the building has to be in use by the end of this year. However, even if the all the money pledged is given, another £15,800 will be needed before it can be completed.

Grateful thanks for a great year

Once again we give grateful thanks to God and to you, our supporters, for enabling us to continue our exciting and valued ministry to the people of Chile throughout another financial year. Donations during the year ending April 5th amounted to £13,780, of which £5240 was given by regular donors in monthly standing orders, £2069 in sponsorship for our Director's valiant half marathon run from Newcastle to South Shields in September, and the rest in one-off gifts. With Gift Aid and a little bank interest our total income amounted to £17,395.

As a result we were able to give grants totalling £17,155. £4217 went in support of three pastors and their families, £4709 to the Jardin del Sol church building fund, £3119 to the Pehuenche horticultural development project, £2500 towards the construction of a Christian conference building in Pichilemu, and £1500 for a new truck. The remaining £1110 comprised five smaller donations. A copy of the accounts in more detail is available on request.



Pehuenche women working in a greenhouse CFC funded

In the last newsletter we asked you to pray that we would find a new treasurer. A solution was found at our annual meeting in April: a former treasurer Keith Pound is going to share the treasurer's work with the Director.

New believers, new life

More than 100 young people attended the Filadelfia Church's annual Youth Convention in Entre Lagos ("Between the Lakes") last January. Some of those who attended were among 29 new believers who were baptized just a fortnight later.



Pastor Miguel preaching at the baptism service, with the Osorno volcano in the background

Not so long after this Pastor Miguel visited a daughter church on the other side of the Andes Mountains in Neuquén, Argentina, where he baptized yet more new Christians. Christ's church continues to grow!

Pehuenches hear the gospel in their own language

Last year Global Recordings Network gave us a machine which played recordings of Bible teaching and a presentation of the gospel in Mapudungun, the language of the indigenous Mapuche and Pehuenche people. As previously reported, this amazing machine does not need mains electricity as it can operate on solar power or even by being wound up like a clockwork motor! In November Church Mission Society staff member Jo Hazelton and Philip Mounstephen, the Executive Leader, took our machine and some supporting picture booklets to Chile, and handed them over to Leonel Collilen on our behalf. Leonel demonstrated the machine to the Pehuenche Christian leaders and they have since asked us for a further supply of the booklets for use with

the recording machine among their neighbours up in the Andes mountains where they live.



Leonel and an associate demonstrate the “Saber” recording machine to some Pehuenches.
(Note the neat electrical conduits on the wall!)

Children’s Bibles reach the top!

The coastal town of Arica is right at the top of Chile on the edge of the Atacama Desert, and that is where our latest collection of Bibles for children arrived at the end of last year. Brother Federico Bascuñán sent us a photo of some children avidly reading their new books in the little Anglican Church he pastors there.



Children in Arica study their new Bibles

CFC Director contacts Chilean government (or tries to!)

For years there have been protests about the low standard of state education in Chile for children whose parents can’t afford to pay for private schooling. The new President, Michelle Bachelet, declared it was her priority to improve matters. So our Director has written to her new Minister for Education offering him the

services of Julian Harty, an expert in new technologies, to help set up some pilot projects that will provide low-cost access to educational materials by means of electronic text readers. Julian, who is a member of Holy Trinity Church in High Wycombe, is already helping schools in India and Africa in a similar manner.

While we await the Minister’s reply we have arranged for Julian to make a start at a school in Santiago which is managed by a group of Christians to provide education for some of the poorest children in the area. In August Julian will train the teachers in the use of several ‘Android’ machines, and will work with them and the pupils to see how these and similar devices could be used throughout Chile. We hope that he will also be able to speak to someone from the Ministry of Education with a view to extending the scheme to other schools with government support.

Julian is paying for his own travel and time as a service to the Lord. Please help him and us through your prayers for this exciting venture!

Four (large) wheels on my wagon



Leonel with the new truck CFC helped to buy

Leonel Collilen is the technologist who helps the Pehuenche families manage their bee-keeping, vegetable-growing, and furniture-making projects which we have helped to support over the years. In order to take supplies up to the mountains and to bring produce and furniture back to the marketplace for sale a reliable truck is essential. Leonel’s salary, travel and other expenses are funded by occasional gifts from members of Chile’s Anglican Church,

but these have never been enough. So when the old truck ground to a halt for the last time in 2013 Chile for Christ donated £1500 toward the cost of a replacement.

Facebook

Yes, Chile for Christ is now on Facebook! I'm not sure how one is supposed to find us, but a search in Facebook for "Chile for Christ" seems to work. If you visit us please "like" something (whatever that means!). A church intern, Ele Reader, is helping us to keep it updated.

Children with special needs get extra-special attention!

Caitlin Mathews is doing a great job on the island of Chiloe! Escuela Los Ciruelillos is the only school in Chile that provides free education for children with special needs, and 19-year-old Caitlin from Wimbledon is helping out there as a classroom assistant. Outside school hours she works in the nearby Hogar Amancay, a residential home for adults and some of the pupils.



Caitlin teaching her class in Chiloe

Back in November Caitlin wrote,

"Having got over the initial surprise that things tend to get done about three weeks after they are supposed to be done, I am starting to thoroughly enjoy the relaxed pace of life here. The Chileans – with their fierce patriotism and irrepressible chanting – are great fun, although it does mean that I am still the butt of jokes about the English football team."

In the school she looks after the four most severely disabled pupils in a primary class, enabling the teacher to help the

other pupils learn basic reading and maths skills so that they can either return to mainstream schooling or go on to learn practical skills such as gardening and cookery in the hope that eventually they will be able to obtain paid work.

"I am incredibly proud of all of their progress," she writes. "There have been moments which have given me a warm fuzzy feeling inside, for example when Cristian, a little boy with profound speech difficulties, learnt to say 'leche' (milk), and when Javiera, a 13 year old with Downs Syndrome, learnt to count up to 4, having only known the number 1 when I arrived. Walking into the class-room on a Monday morning to see the students excited to tell me about their weekends is one of the highlights of my week."

Chile for Christ gave a small donation to help fund Caitlin's placement.



Caitlin and another gap year student with two of the children on an outing in the town

Welsh-speaking Chilean finds accommodation

In November's prayer letter we reported that Constanza Pulgar, the daughter of pastor Ronny Pulgar and his wife Betty, wanted to visit Wales to experience the land and language of her grandmother Carris. We are grateful for your prayers on her behalf, for the Welsh speaking Methodist Church has now offered her hospitality for the next six months. Constanza is going to do a short course in Welsh at Cardiff University and will then travel round the churches in Wales. We are praying that she will be able to pass on

some of the Chileans' evangelistic spirit to the congregations there, especially to the young people!

News from the end of the Earth

In April Pastor Ronny Pulgar visited some Methodist families on Tierra del Fuego. Sandwiched between the Straits of Magellan and Cape Horn, the island could truly be called "the end of the Earth". As we reported previously both Ronny and his fellow Anglican pastor Alister Morrison would like to see a work of God established on the Island, for at present there is neither a Methodist nor an Anglican church. So as a start we are planning to provide the few Christians who are there with Spanish editions of "Why Jesus?" by Nicky Gumball, in the hope that they can use these in outreach to their friends and acquaintances.



Pastor Ronny Pulgar talks to a Methodist family in the town of Porvenir

A bold venture of faith

Recently the Chilean Anglican Church took the bold step of appointing a full-time paid administrator and fundraiser for its mission and social development agency, Ong Camdes. Among other things Ong Camdes provides Bible teaching and leadership training to the Pehuenche people, as well as teaching them practical skills. In response to a request from the Secretary, Nancy Duarte, CFC has agreed to pay the salary (but not the expenses) of the new administrator, Hector Enriquez, for at least his first three months in office. Accordingly a grant of £1125 was made to Ong Camdes at the end of May.

Another visitor from Chile

In July our Director Arnold and his wife Ann have offered a week's accommodation to the daughter of a Chilean pastor, Manuel Pérez, who lives in Valparaiso. Please pray that Paula will enjoy her visit to England and that it will be a mutual blessing to everyone involved.



Puerto Williams, an outpost on the southern coast of Tierra del Fuego opposite Cape Horn – the world's most southerly town.

Give thanks...

- for the new believers both in Chile and Argentina, and for the sacrificial faith of the Filadelfia Church's leadership
- for a very successful visit to Chile by CMS staff last November
- for increasing contact with Christians on Tierra del Fuego
- for the opening God has given us, through Julian Harty and our contacts in Chile, to help improve the education of Chile's poorer families
- for answering your prayers for Caitlin Mathews, who has settled in so well to her work at the school and the home for people with learning difficulties
- for the delight of children in Arica on receiving their new children's Bibles
- for visible progress on the new church building in Jardín del Sol
- for answering prayers for Constanza's accommodation in Wales
- for a satisfactory solution to our need for a new treasurer

- for all the people who support us financially and by prayer to keep this ministry going
- for the continuing good health of the trustees, who get a little older every day!



Rear of the new church, with pastor's flat above

Please pray...

- that the £15,800 still required to complete the Jardin del Sol building will be provided before the end of this year - let's believe for a miracle!
- for Constanza Pulgar's 6-month visit to Wales beginning this month, that she will be genuinely welcomed in the land of her grandmother and be able to communicate in Welsh, and that she will inspire the Christians she meets with a renewed commitment to sharing the knowledge of Jesus and his salvation

with everyone they know

- for Hector Enriquez in his new work as full-time administrator and fund-raiser for Ong Camdes, that his ministry will bear abundant fruit so that God's kingdom can be extended in Chile
- that the Minister of Education will make contact with Julian Harty, and that the Lord will lead and direct Julian in all his decisions and arrangements and ministry, to the glory of God and for the blessing of Chile's children
- for the Christians in Tierra del Fuego, that the Lord will fill them with his Spirit and give them a new vision, purpose and commitment to sharing Christ with their neighbours and to developing a worshipping community there; and, if it is the Lord's will, that an anointed church planter will be found and financed to work among them
- for the newly baptized believers, that they will continue to grow in faith and love and in the power of the Spirit, and demonstrate the reality of their new life in Christ by both word and deed.
- for Paula Pérez's visit to England in July, that the Lord's purposes in this will be fully accomplished

The Lord bless you all for your loving support of all our efforts on His behalf. May we, the Trustees, fulfil all His purposes for us and for His beloved people in Chile.



Young people at the Filadelfia Church's annual Youth Convention last January