



Chile for Christ

News letter and annual report

May 2015



Osorno firemen last January in uniforms previously donated by CFC. Centre, Hector Maturana, Director of the Sixth Fire Brigade of Osorno, CFC Director Arnold Page, and Pastor Miguel Pérez of the Filadelfia Church.

Fires, floods and flaming volcanos

In April, 4500 Chileans had to evacuate their homes due a major volcanic eruption sending ash 11 miles into the sky, the second volcano to erupt in a fortnight. A month earlier hundreds more were made homeless and ten people died when seven years worth of rain fell in just 12 hours in the extreme north. Yet in that same month after a persisting drought in the south of Chile, 2000 hectares of forests caught fire, destroying trees as old as 1000 years.



Calbuco Volcano, Puerto Varas, 23rd April
(Getty images)

Chileans must wonder what they have done to deserve so many natural disasters. The Lord would have known when he designed the earth that such events would necessarily afflict their nation, and perhaps because of that He seems to have provided them with almost supernatural resilience and, at times, protection.

For back in 2010 Chile suffered an earthquake ten times as powerful and equally as widespread as the recent terrible earthquakes in Nepal, yet in Chile only 525 people lost their life compared with some 10,000 in Nepal. The cost of repair work to the massive devastation the 2010 earthquake caused is still being counted, yet somehow most Chilean people have transcended their troubles and continue to believe that God is good.

Building project saved with help from CFC

In 2009, in answer to much prayer, the Municipality of Osorno donated land for a church building to the Filadelfia Church, on condition that it would be open for church and community use by the end of

2014. This did not happen, for the cost of building materials doubled following the 2010 earthquake, and by January 1st another £15,000 still had to be found. The Council has been asked to extend the deadline for completion to July. Failing this they have the right to take the land back into public ownership, and with it the unfinished building.

So Pastor Miguel Pérez and his wife Ana pledged two months' of this year's very small stipend to help meet the deficit, and have even contemplated selling their house and camping in the unfinished flat on the first floor of the new church building. Miguel was planning to rent their house once the new flat was finished, in order to augment the painfully small income he receives from his new and still small congregation. And he still needs to find £7500 to replace the car he sold in 2014 to raise further money for the building.



Miguel Pérez, Arnold & Ann Page, and Ana Pérez in the partly completed main hall last January.

"I shall keep praying for a miracle that in God's time a vehicle will come," Miguel wrote. *"For many years my wife and I have been sowing in the kingdom of God and that seed will produce its harvest. That is what my wife and I believe."*

The good news is that thanks to the efforts of two of our trustees, Brenda and Geraldine, and to the generosity of church members in Britain whose help they enlisted, we been able since February to send another £5500. The Chilean church leaders now hope to have the main toilets and the lighting in the main hall completed shortly and the pastoral flat completed by the end of the year. Even if the church members fulfil giving pledges

for next year another £5000 will still be needed and it will be 2017 before heating can be installed in the main hall and the building can be properly decorated.

We rounded Cape Horn!



Our Director reaches the end of the Earth at last!

(Arnold narrates.) Last year I explained how the Lord provided the money and the go-ahead for Ann and me to celebrate our forthcoming Golden Wedding with a cruise around the coasts of Chile and Argentina. The 3000-passenger Golden Princess was also celebrating her company's 50th anniversary. Trustee Brenda Gooding and her husband David travelled with us.

We were able to visit Pastor Miguel in Osorno and Pastor Ronny Pulgar in Punta Arenas, as well as other people we knew. The Lord provided beautiful weather and many opportunities for sharing his truth and love with people we met, both aboard the ship and on land. I had an opportunity to help in leading to Christ the owner of a radio station in Valparaiso, and to lead the ship's official Bible studies!

One highlight was a day of perfectly calm weather at Cape Horn, when the ship circled the island for an hour – truly the end of the earth, the place to which God had called us back in 1971.

Firemen learn how Christ can rescue from fire both temporal and eternal!

Another highlight was meeting the crew of a fire station in Osorno to whom Chile for Christ sent used protective clothing worth £55,000 new five years ago. The men had all taken the morning off their regular employment to meet us and express personally their profound gratitude for the

help we had provided. I was given an opportunity to share the gospel with them, beginning with an account of how the Lord had miraculously saved our family from a serious house fire in Punta Arenas back in 1981. I then gave each fireman a copy of a Bible provided by the church in Osorno.



David Gooding and his trustee wife Brenda take a ride round the block in a 1928 fire engine!

"Why Jesus?" in Tierra del Fuego

In Punta Arenas it was the warmest day for many years, and several inhabitants complained that 20°C was too hot for comfort! Our little party arrived at the Methodist Church during a briefing for ninety young Christians from all over the south of Chile who had come for a week of training and street evangelism. I encouraged them to ask the Holy Spirit to be their "tour guide" each day as they ventured into the city and across the water to Tierra del Fuego. Brenda brought greetings to them from the Welsh churches, in Welsh, which Constanza Pulgar, Ronny's daughter, translated into Spanish! Connie had certainly spent profitably her six months in Wales the previous year.

Ronny was deeply grateful to Chile for Christ for its prior provision of 400 copies of Nicky Gumball's book, "Why Jesus?" in Spanish, for use in his visits to Tierra del Fuego as well as during the week of outreach.

A message from Pastor Ronny Pulgar

'Across the deep waters of the Straits of Magellan, there also life continues in the community of Porvenir. In the midst of exile, loneliness, abandonment, emptiness and many other sensations that make human life so fragile, our Church

announces a gospel of healing and deliverance. Dozens of our compatriots who are not native islanders experience profound feelings of sadness and pain which threaten their integrity as human beings. The gospel is good news to those who are broken-hearted (Luke 4.18), and it fulfils the promise that they will be comforted. (Matthew 5.4).

We have developed a project called ABC, which means: to Accompany, to Bless and to Comfort. This project aims "to offer, both pastorally and professionally, wise and compassionate spiritual and psycho-social assistance to people in extremity, with the aim of helping them to live a full and purposeful life with the help of the Lord." They await us on the other side of those cold, deep waters, where God is too, incarnate in those who struggle with the question, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Ps. 137: 4).

With the Lord's help we want to invade Porvenir with the truth of his holy gospel, to secure many in the true peace and eternal salvation which Jesus Christ freely offers.'



Praying for a lady and child in Tierra del Fuego. (Pastor Ronny Pulgar centre back.)

How we have used your gifts

In the financial year ending 5th April we received donations totalling £15,471, an increase of £1690 over the previous year. £6,040 of this came from regular monthly donors, whose support is especially valued.

Most of the one-off donations were designated for the new church building in Jardín del Sol, for which we gave a total of £6681 during the year. Other donations comprised:

- £3201 Monthly support of three pastors including contributions to the university fees of Ronny Pulgar's two daughters.
- £2250 Support for Ong Camdes fund-raiser.
- £2000 Anne Aboaja's university-sponsored investigation into the relationship between mental health and faith of Chilean women prisoners.
- £530 Accommodation for 90 young people during week of evangelism.
- £500 Donation designated for Bergmann missionary family.
- £300 Bursaries to help pastors receive counselling and encouragement at the Bergmann's School of Grace.
- £240 400 'Why Jesus?' booklets in Spanish for Punta Arenas & Tierra del Fuego.
- £200 Discipleship literature for Saint Andrew's Anglican Church in Arica.
- £200 Pastor's medical expenses.
- £170 Winter food parcels for Pehuenches.
- £108 Shipment of recording machine with Bible and gospel recordings for Pehuenches.

Bank charges for the transfer of money to Chile totalled £383.

Thank you to everyone who enabled us to do so much.

Pastor's wife leads women's ministry

Ana Pérez Pinela, the wife of Miguel, is working hard in Jardín del Sol to lead the local women to Christ. In January she organized an evangelistic tea for 50 ladies, and on Women's Day well over 100 ladies attended a service in the still incomplete main hall of the new church building.



Group photo of women at evangelistic tea in Jardín del Sol last January

Sad end to work of Ong Camdes

For years Ong Camdes, the Mission and Social Development arm of the Chilean Anglican Church, has done a wonderful work among the impoverished Pehuenche people high up in the Andes Mountains. CFC has collaborated in providing the materials for eleven self-built houses, a wood workshop, a bee-keeping project and a number of greenhouses. The organization's practical ministry has proceeded hand in hand with Bible teaching and leadership training, and in consequence two chapels have been built for families who have come to know Christ as Lord.



Building Cauñico Chapel in 2008

The Anglican Church has just decided that it can no longer afford to employ Leonel Collilen, the Chilean technician who has overseen the on-going practical work, nor the fund-raiser Hector Enríquez whom they appointed only last year. So sadly Ong Camdes has been wound up.

We pray for Nancy Duarte, who has faithfully handled the administration and finance of Ong Camdes for many years, and for the now unemployed Leonel Collilen and his family.

Launch of new book on family health

Our Director's 320-page book, 'Twenty-First Century Nutrition and Family Health', was launched at a public meeting on March 21st. A reviewer on Amazon wrote, "*Extensively researched, thoroughly argued and carefully written, challenging much of conventional dogma, this is a 'must read' for everyone with a concern for their own and their children's diet and health.*"

Half the profits will go to our ministry, so do yourself some good and buy a copy! You can order the paperback for £12.79 from CFC or online at www.booksforlife.today, or an E-book from www.amazon.co.uk. Whether you buy one or not, please recommend it to your friends. If you would like leaflets to distribute in your church tell us how many you want by letter, phone or email to arnoldpage@chileforchrist.org.

Help finish the new church using your mobile phone!

You can make a small impromptu gift of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to help complete the new church in Jardín del Sol simply by texting JSOL10 + space + '£' + the amount, e.g. 'JSOL10 £5'. Send it to 70070 and your donation will be made! No fee will be deducted. Tell your church, friends and associates! If everyone who reads this gets ten people to text £10 then the resulting £10,000 will finish the building!

Give thanks for...

- the visit to Chile in January, for safe travelling, glorious weather, and many opportunities for witness and ministry
- the evident gratitude and hospitality of the Osorno firemen
- gifts from many new donors towards the new church building in Osorno

- the long-awaited publication of Arnold's book on nutrition

Please pray for...

- Pastor Miguel and Ana Pérez, that their own and their church's financial problems will be solved
- the life and leadership of the Chilean Anglican Church, and for Hector, Leonel and Nancy
- Anne Aboaja, that she may be able to complete her work among Chilean prisoners and come to some clear conclusions which can be acted upon
- Pastor Federico Bascuñán and the people of St. Andrew's Church, that they may benefit from their new discipleship material and increase in holiness and their witness to the risen Christ
- wisdom and energy for Arnold in marketing his book and in continuing to administer the work of Chile for Christ
- students Andrew Dobie and Taran Vear to whom CFC sent small grants, as they prepare for a year of service in Chile
- Pastor Ronny Pulgar and his church's outreach to the people of Tierra del Fuego, for Ronny's continuing health since recovering from a stroke, for his wife Betty and their daughters Elizabeth and Constanza, both at university.

If you use Facebook you can find us on www.facebook.com/ChileforChrist!

Thank you so much for your continuing interest and support, whether by praying or giving. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones with peace, strength and unquenchable hope!



Shopping bags made by the women of Jardín del Sol church and distributed free of charge last January as a means of social outreach and to reduce the use of plastic bags. Printed, 'Jireh Women's Committee'.