



Chile for Christ

News letter and annual report

May 2016



Pastor Pablo Zavala (right) takes the opportunity to preach the gospel to Coquimbo fishermen and their wives following Chile for Christ's £1000 grant to replace equipment they lost in the 2015 earthquake.

Chilean fishermen receive help from England

On September 16th 2015 an earthquake measuring 8.4 on the Richter Scale sent a tidal wave 4.5 metres high crashing onto the Chilean coast north of Santiago. The water and the accompanying quake destroyed boats and buildings, and many people were injured or killed. The Bay of Coquimbo suffered particularly badly, with many fishermen losing their boats, equipment and livelihoods.

Chile for Christ answered an appeal from the Chilean Anglican Church and we were able to get £1000 to the pastor of the Church of the Redeemer in the city of La Serena.

After the initial emergency in which water, food and clothing were provided to families whose homes had been destroyed, Pastor Pablo Zavala arranged to meet

eleven families of fishermen and tell them about the grant he had received from us.

They used this to replace some of the essential equipment in the indoor market where they sold fish and seafood each day. Like all Chilean pastors he took the opportunity to return one day to take photos and preach the gospel to them!



A delighted fisherman hugs his new equipment

New church building in Jardín del Sol finally opens!

Six years after the foundation stone was laid in the new residential district of Jardín del Sol, the Filadelfia Church's magnificent new 300 seat building was formally opened at a service of dedication on 4 December 2015. A number of civic dignitaries attended, including the mayor Don Jaime Bertín, who had originally signed the agreement to donate the land on condition that the building would be used as a centre for community services as well as for the preaching and teaching of the Christian gospel.



Mayor Jaime Bertín cuts to tape to declare the new church building open

Throughout that time Pastor Miguel Pérez and his wife Ana, together with two of their married children, Rodrigo and Carolina, had worked tirelessly to see the fulfilment of their dream. In the previous two years Miguel and Ana gave two months' of their very small annual income towards the cost of materials and the hire of essential skilled workmen.



Part of the congregation at the official opening service on 4th December 2015. Four overhead screens provide the words of worship songs.



Pastor Pérez at the front of the new Filadelfia Church, with a car that Chile for Christ helped to buy him in order to reach his nine rural churches.

Financial needs remain. Money to complete the first floor pastoral flat for Miguel, Ana and their daughter and grandson still has to be found. Until that happens they cannot supplement their personal income from the still fledging congregation's Sunday offerings by renting out their existing small house. Neither is there the money to insure the new building or provide an electronic surveillance or security systems. For this they have to trust in God and his guardian angels.

Financial report

In the financial year ending 5th April we received donations totalling £15,800, less than the previous year by £1800. However grants totalling £21,135 exceeded the previous year's by nearly £5000. A sum of £3090 was carried forward. The grant were as follows:

- £10,100 Jardín del Sol building fund
- £ 2,000 Part purchase of car, M. Pérez
- £ 2,100 Pastoral support M. Pérez
- £ 1,650 University fees for two daughters of Methodist pastor R. Pulgar
- £ 1,100 New Filadelfia chapel in Neuquén
- £ 1,000 Earthquake victims, Coquimbo
- £ 1,000 Support for Anne Aboaja*
- £ 950 San Andrés Anglican Church roof
- £ 450 Support for various pastors to attend retreats and conferences
- £ 435 12 Bibles and 80 'Why Jesus?' booklets for 3 churches
- £ 350 Small grants to three British gap year students (Project Trust)

* Anne has been undertaking self-funded PhD research into the relationship between the mental health and faith of women prisoners in Chile.



Inca ruins at Pisac in the Sacred Valley, Peru. Photo taken by Andrew Dobie

Adventure and adversity

Project Trust gap-year students do amazing work in Chile in spite of speaking very little Spanish when they first arrive there each August. Andrew Dobie in his work as an English teaching assistant in Valparaiso was determined to spread Scottish culture by organizing a Saint Andrew's Day celebration, while in a home and school on the island of Chiloe Taran Vear helped severely disabled children and adults with craftwork, outings, and eating and dressing.



Taran & colleague Caitlin with two other students stationed in Puerto Montt and a little Chilean girl

In November Taran was hospitalized twice with tonsillitis and bronchitis, and on New Year's Eve she was knocked over by a taxi that mounted the pavement!

In the January summer holidays all the Chilean Project Trust students took the opportunity to visit Cusco and other historic sites via northern Chile, Peru and Bolivia. The horrendous bus journey lasted four days and nights. One old bus broke down in the middle of the night leaving Taran so cold she could hardly move and had to resort to drinking mate (made from coca leaves) in an attempt to combat the cold and altitude sickness.

Andrew writes,

"I'm now back in Valparaiso and ready to get stuck back into work and make the most of my remaining time here! I hope to extend my role and involvement in the classroom, as well as developing more extra-curricular activities, perhaps a new sports club!"

"I've started training for the Santiago half marathon in April! Equally I am keen to get more involved in the local community, and am in the process of setting up an evening community English class as well as finding a sports club to join!"



50 pupils and staff attempt the Gay Gordons and the Canadian Barn Dance under Andrew and colleague Kyle's guidance

Director's book gets five 5-star reviews on Amazon!

Our director Arnold has been asked to speak about nutrition at a conference on 'Ageing, Physical Activity, Recreation & Wellbeing' in June. His book *'Twenty-First Century Nutrition and Family Health'* is the definitive explanation and answer to obesity, coronary heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. It gives practical advice to individuals, parents and children on diet, exercise and many other aspects of health.

The book was written in the hope of providing some income for Chile for Christ, but it hasn't yet sold enough copies to make a profit above the cost of its publication. So now Arnold is going to give the charity £2 for every copy bought from his website www.booksforlife.today.

Arnold's GP says the book is brilliant! Please read the reviews on Amazon, order a copy yourself from Books For Life, and recommend it to your friends. Once you have read it you will wish you had done so years ago! We can supply leaflets for distribution in your church or for use just as a church notice. To order some e-mail Arnold at arnoldpage@chileforchrist.org, or phone 01494 459453.

Bibles and 'Why Jesus?'

Books in Chile cost twice as much as they do in the UK, so relatively few people own a Bible or any other book. Accordingly CFC provided 25 copies of Nicky Gumball's excellent booklet 'Why Jesus?' in Spanish to each of two churches. We supplied Pastor Ronny Pulgar with 12 Bibles and a further 30 copies of 'Why Jesus?' for his ongoing missionary outreach in the island of Tierra del Fuego.



Young people in Osorno enthusiastically display their copies of 'Why Jesus?'



Torres del Paine (Paine Towers) in Chilean Patagonia. Andrew Dobie spent Christmas there with his family.

Give thanks for...

- the completion of the main part of the new church building in Jardín del Sol
- everyone who has made our work possible and effective through their donations and prayers
- the faithfulness and dedication of Chilean church pastors and leaders, and the enthusiastic desire of Christians young and old to introduce others to Jesus Christ



Murals in the coastal city of Valparaíso

Please pray for...

- the completion of the pastoral flat above the church
- Anne Aboaja's successful completion of her research in the women's prison in Santiago, and that it may be put to effective use in various ways
- that God's Spirit will guide the trustees in their allocation of grants so that their work may be spiritually fruitful
- for the ministry of Ronny Pulgar and the new Christians in Tierra del Fuego, and for the Anglican minister Danny Morrison who has a vision to take the gospel to all the people of Patagonia.

May God, 'from whom all the families on earth are named' bless you and your family in all your ways. Arnold V Page.