



Chile for Christ

News letter and annual report

May 2017



Ana Pérez enjoys a moment of solitude beside the Pacific Ocean during only her second holiday in 32 years of marriage to a Chilean pastor

Rebirth of Chile for Christ?

Last November I announced that in July this year I would be standing down as Director after 25 years of serving the Lord and his people in Chile. Since then many of you have joined the trustees in prayer that the Lord would find a new team if he wants the ministry of Chile for Christ to continue. At the time of writing it looks as though he does! We have had three excellent applicants whom we shall interview in the next few weeks. The contributions they could make to the Trust's work are very exciting. Please pray about the interviews, and we'll tell you the outcome when we know it.

Annual financial statement

The total income during the year ending 5th April was £15,123, a little less than in the previous year. Only £12,040 of this was distributed in grants, but another £2,800 was disbursed a fortnight later after a delay in the banking system. £2360 was recovered from HMRC through Gift Aid.

This year our major support went to Pastor Miguel Perez in the form of £5115 to pay for two successful operations to remove gallstones, and treatment for his heart condition. We continued our regular support for his family and ministry in the sum of £1200, and we gave a total of £850 to

Pastor Ronny Pulgar towards his daughter Constanza's university fees.

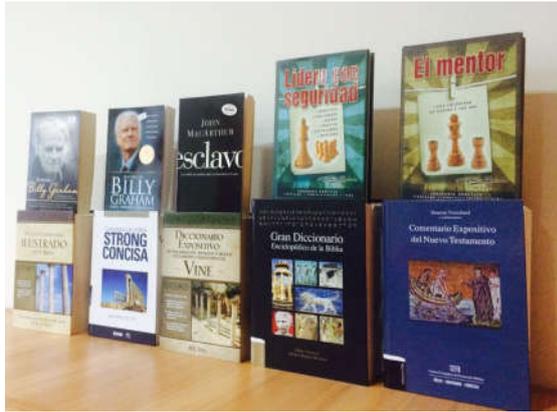
We gave £1350 towards travel and other costs connected with missionary work in Tierra del Fuego, and £850 to our bursary fund for Chilean pastors to assist them in attending conferences or having a seaside holiday at the centre in Pichilemu run by missionaries Gerd and Rosie Bergmann.



Gerd and Rosie Bergmann with pastor Miguel Pérez in Pichilemu, April 2017

We gave £950 to the Filadelfia Church to complete the furnishing of the new pastoral flat in Jardin del Sol, along with £350 to stock a church library and another £100 for the purchase of Bibles there. Two or three smaller grants were also made.

We are very grateful to all of you who have supported us financially or through your prayers.



Some of the excellent Christian books CFC bought for the Filadelfia Church's new library.

Forest fires ravage Chile

Following three years of relative drought and some record temperatures in Santiago, 216 separate forest fires set over 2000 square miles of Chile ablaze last January. Eight fire fighters and at least three civilians died.

The entire town of Santa Olga was destroyed, comprising a thousand homes, business premises, churches, a hospital and a community centre. Even parts of the great coastal city of Valparaiso or 'Paradise Valley' looked more like Hellfire Mountain on January 2nd. 120 houses in the city were destroyed.



Eight fire fighters died in January's inferno

The total financial loss to the country has been estimated at US\$300 million. When the new young Mayor of Valparaiso, Jorge Sharp, entered office in December 2016 he learned that the city was already £63 million in debt. Now he has to find additional resources to help with reconstruction after the fires.



Total destruction in Santa Olga

Pastor's house and church burn down

Among the buildings destroyed by the fires in Valparaiso were the house and church of 72-year-old Pentecostal Pastor José Canipane and his nearly blind wife Adela.

"When I got here everything was ruined, everything was all burned," he told our reporter. *"I stood there among the charred remains, and I could only say what Job said: 'The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken it away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'"*

The couple are now living in what is little more than a garden shed, yet they have started to rebuild and are determined to continue their ministry for Jesus. They have erected a marquee to serve as a tabernacle for the remaining twenty members of Los Hermanos Pentecostal Church. On the one remaining wall they have bravely painted the words of Nahum 1.7: *'The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.'*



José points back at his temporary shed house, standing beside a loaned marquee now serving as a church building

Pastor Canipane estimates it will cost about £7000 to build a new church in brickwork. Neither their house nor the church were insured. They need money to pay an architect or technical draughtsman, a skilled builder and carpenter, and for building materials – all currently in short supply because of the fires.

Chile for Christ sent them £2000 in April, but we would love to give much more if we could. Can you help, do you think? Cheques should be made out to 'Chile for Christ', or you can donate via our website, chileforchrist.org.

Iglesia Filadelfia celebrates 25 years of ministry



Young people lead worship on Women's Day, March 7th, in front of a packed church

The Filadelfia Church began in 1988 with an evangelistic campaign conducted by Miguel and Ana Pérez and a group of young people in the village of Puyehue. Taking a step of faith, Miguel gave up his job to preach the gospel full time. That same year in England the Lord made it clear to our director, Arnold, that he was not to resume a ministry in Chile so instead, together with a few friends and family members, he began to support Miguel financially.

Both ministries grew. In 1992 Chile for Christ was registered as a charitable trust, and less than two months later the Filadelfia Church became a legal entity in Chile. It has grown into a group of twelve chapels with six full time married pastors and an evangelist.

On March 18th this year, to celebrate the church's twenty-fifth birthday, a large congregation assembled in the new 300-seat building in Jardin del Sol, Osorno, for a day of thanksgiving and celebration.



A 25th anniversary celebration tea party in Jardín del Sol on March 18th 2017

A special seaside holiday

In April Pastor Miguel Pérez and his wonderful wife Ana enjoyed only their second holiday in 32 years of married life. They stayed in the small seaside flat belonging to missionaries Gerd and Rosie Bergmann. The Bergmanns furnished it at their own expense to accommodate visiting speakers to their courses and conferences, and as a place where pastors and their wives could find rest and renewal at other times.

We donate £50 a month to the bursary fund we established to assist pastors with their travelling expenses and conference fees. Miguel and Ana gratefully took advantage of it.



Miguel and Ana prepare to go chariot racing in Pichilemu!

The holiday was particularly important for Miguel. He is recovering from two operations for the removal of gallstones and he now needs to re-gather his strength for a further major operation in August to remove his prostate gland. This will be another expensive operation which he will be unable to afford without help.

I have heard you calling in the night

Early this month Arnold spoke to a pastor in Kent whom the Lord has called to plant churches in Chile. One night John Ingle had a very vivid dream of an elderly, authoritative man, telling him, "It is my will for you to go to Chile." The next night he was woken six times with the single word 'Valparaiso'. The following day, after he had discovered that Valparaiso was indeed in Chile, God clearly told John he was going to speak to him through a newspaper he had just bought. He opened it on an article about a massive new astronomical telescope to be built in the Chilean desert.

John visited Valparaiso and met an Anglican missionary pastor, Daniel Kirk, who believes that together they will plant four new congregations. Back in England again, John has just started services for several local Spanish speakers with the help of a more experienced Spanish-speaking church planter. It is a kind of apprenticeship for him.

It seems that the Lord has a very special concern for the people of Chile! You too can help to bring the gospel to the Chilean people through your support for our continuing ministry.

A miracle in the making?

The day that the trustees met in April to consider the future of the Trust they received an email from Gerd Bergmann:

I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you whether you continue or not. On behalf of the Chilean pastors I want to encourage you to continue. I know from personal experience what a great difference your contribution has made and I have seen how it has blessed people very specifically. May you know wisdom and the Father's heart in this junction of the road.

Nevertheless, without any suitable applicant to take over as director we reluctantly decided that the Trust would have to be wound up in July, unless God provided a miracle. Next day one of the trustees went for a walk with her dog. Deeply saddened, she prayed for a miracle. That same day we received an enquiry

from someone who could fulfil many of the current roles of the director. We shall interview her shortly...

Give thanks for...

- the good response to the advertisements for new trustees
- two successful operations on Pastor Miguel Pérez, for Gerd and Rosie Bergmann's generous hospitality, and for the rare holiday that Miguel and Ana were able to enjoy in consequence
- the relatively low loss of life in the January's unprecedented forest fires. (In Australia in 2009 bush fires over a smaller area killed 173 people.)

Please pray...

- for the many people whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed in the forest fires, and for the mayor Jorge Sharp and the Municipal Corporation of Valparaiso as they wrestle with debt, social unrest & disaster recovery
- for Pastor José Canipane and his wife Adela, for their continuing faith and courage, for physical and spiritual strength, and for the money and help they need to build a new house and chapel
- for the Lord to make it clear to the new trustee applicants and the existing trustees what roles he wants the new trustees to fulfil, and that the transfer will be carried out wisely and effectively
- that the Lord will continue to equip and guide Pastor John Ingle and his family in preparation for the promised new ministry
- for Gerd and Rosie Bergmann's leadership of the School of Discipleship and Training course in Pichilemu from June 16th to September 8th, and for the participants. 'The grace of God is the power that enables us to receive, live and share the life of Christ, both in *us and through us to others,*' Gerd writes.

May the Lord bless you richly as you share his boundless grace and love with others.