



Chile for Christ

A very special newsletter

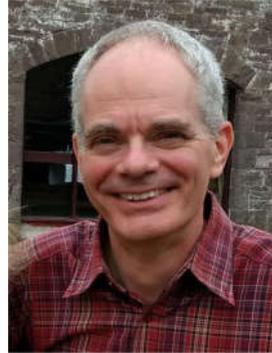
August 2017



Philip Munro



Danielle Deakin



Simon Large



Paula Pérez

**This is the Lord's doing; it is
marvellous in our eyes. Psalm 118.23**

Since the Chile for Christ Trust was first registered as a charity 25 years ago you and other supporters have been part of a miraculous work of God every bit as wonderful as Jesus's feeding of five thousand people with just five bread rolls and two dried fish. Many relatively small donations of money and many prayers have produced the most extraordinary results in the lives of individuals and churches on the other side of the earth.

But just as remarkable has been the Lord's provision this year of some wonderful people to continue the work now that the time has finally come for me to retire and say goodbye to you. Let me introduce them to you.

Philip Munro

Married to Lucy and with a one year old daughter, Philip works as solicitor in the City of London where he specializes in trust law and trust planning. Philip will be our new treasurer. He says, *"I am very honoured to take a role in relation to Chile for Christ. I'm looking forward to being involved with an organisation that improves lives and communities in a tangible way, and I am keen to contribute to its important work and the fulfilment of its objects."*

Danielle Deakin

Married last year to Nathaniel and having just obtained a degree in Theology and Mission, Danielle taught English in Chile as a gap year student in 2012/2013 and can speak Chilean Spanish! She will be our Communications Officer, with responsibility for communicating with the people in Chile, for producing and distributing the newsletters, and for developing the Trust's presence in social media. She says, *"I am very excited to join the Chile for Christ charity. I'm excited to see what God is doing in Chile, and I hope that I can help to grow and develop the charity's work both there and here."*

Simon Large

Simon lives in Wales. He is married to Mairwen and they have two children at university. Having worked for over 30 years in electronics and software engineering Simon followed a call from God in July to set up his own business, Skirrid Systems, to provide web design and IT support services for churches and charities. Simon says, *"I am looking forward to this new adventure, using technology to carry the Good News to a new generation and to engage Christians here with the work of the Kingdom in Chile."* He will be responsible for the Trust's web site, developing it for the users of smart phones and other mobile devices.

Paula Pérez

Paula is a Chilean teacher of English, and an evangelist and street preacher who lives in the city of Valparaiso. She will be the Trust's representative in Chile, providing more personal contact with people who live in the heart of the country. Paula writes, *"Thank you very much for considering me, always its an honor to work for the Lord."*

The other trustees

Brenda Gooding, one of our present trustees, is going to take over my remaining responsibilities as Director. For the present my sister Geraldine Geers will continue to serve as Secretary and Keith Pound as Assistant Treasurer.

We say goodbye and thank-you to Martin Cove, who was our treasurer for a while and has served as a trustee since 2012.

Some highlights of the Trust's 25-year ministry

We all thought we should mark the completion of 25 years of the Trust's ministry by recording a few of the highlights over the years. You can read the full inspiring stories and many more on the 'News and stories' page of our website.



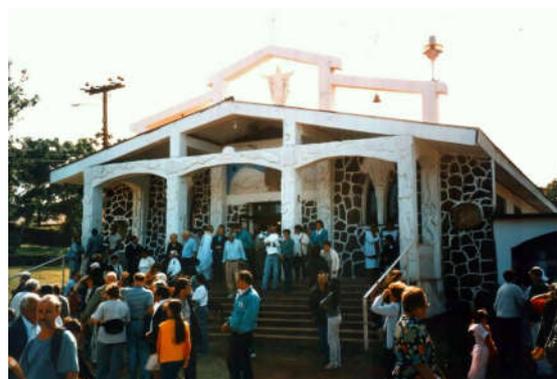
In her 60s Carris Pulgar Hughes fixes roof panels to their new house near Nueva Imperial

1997 José Pulgar, the Methodist pastor with whom I worked from 1979 to 1981, retired on a pension of only £72 a month with nowhere to live. He owned a small plot of land and I suggested that he invite a group of young people from the nearest large Methodist Church to spend part of their summer holidays helping him and his wife Carris to build a house, with Chile

for Christ paying for their food. José gave them Bible teaching each evening!

We also paid for the excavation of a well and the purchase of an electric pump to extract water from it. José installed a water tank up a tree!

2001 In November Ann and I visited Chile for the opening ceremony of Miguel Pérez's first church building within the city of Osorno. The Trust had provided a substantial part of the costs. We went on to visit Easter Island (where the giant Moai statues are) and I read the lesson in English at a Sunday service conducted in Spanish, English and Rapanui!



After the Sunday morning service on Easter Island

2005 In January our £5000 grant made to CMS missionary Andy Bowman enabled him to remain in Chile overseeing a self-building housing project among the marginalized Pehuenche people and to complete a second house there. But another £8300 was needed for materials to complete the remaining five planned houses.



A happy family outside their new home

So in June I organized a major fund-raising walk with thirty people from my engineering firm and church. Our goal was to climb the fifteen 3000ft+ peaks in Snowdonia in 24 hours! We raised £11,182, which was sufficient with Chilean government subsidies to build another eight houses!

When Andy told the Pehuenches the news *'they were absolutely astonished that people in Britain, who they did not know and who lived so far away from them, would be prepared to make such a sacrifice for their families and communities.'*

2003 One of our supporters inherited some money and decided to pay for the full cost of a five-year course in Social Studies for the daughter of Pastor Miguel Pérez, who would otherwise not have been able to join her brother at university. Since then we have helped four other pastors' children through university.



Danielle (second left) with three pupils from the boarding school

That same year we received the first of many requests to help fund a gap year student working in Chile under the auspices of Project Trust. The students' periodic reports have always been enlightening and entertaining.

Samantha Holland wrote, *"Life here is very 'mañana mañana'. We never know what we are doing, we're never asked or told until the last minute, and if we ask, we almost always get a shrug for an answer!"*

Emily Shields soon picked up the most important words that a teacher has to learn: *"¡CALLETE! (shut up), ¡PARATE! (stop it), ¡SILENCIO! (silence), ¡DEJALO! (leave it), and ¡APAGALO! (turn it off)."*

2007 Miguel Pérez and his church began praying for a second and larger church building in a new suburb of Osorno called Jardín del Sol (Sun Garden). The municipality offered to grant them land free of charge for a building that could also be used for the community at large, on condition they could prove that they could raise the money to complete it within five years. CFC formally pledged £15,000, which was half the projected total cost and provided the necessary guarantee. (The cost eventually rose to over £120,000!)

When the mayor and his wife attended a Sunday service in Miguel's first church, Miguel publicly prayed for them both, and the following Tuesday after a long council meeting the land was granted!

2008 The Chaitén Volcano erupted in May and destroyed an entire town. We sent £500 to a Pentecostal pastor to encourage him as he set about starting a new church in the nearby town of Puerto Montt. He had lost his home, his new church building, and 90% of his members on whose weekly offering he and his family of seven persons relied for a living.

2009 Four of us completed another sponsored walk on the Welsh 3000s. We raised £3500, almost exactly the amount needed by the Chilean Anglican Church to set up two important projects among the Pehuenche families: a furniture making workshop for the men and a bee-keeping project for the women. One of our party was Felipe Saravía, the young Chilean project manager. Towards the end of the 24-hour walk he was so tired he kept lying down and going to sleep!



Pehuenche women inspect their first batch of honey

2010 In February a massive earthquake wrought destruction along the Chilean coast. We contributed substantial funds to four 'solidarity caravans' of emergency supplies and medical equipment organized by José Pulgar's son Ronny and other churches in the town of Victoria.

In August 33 miners were trapped underground for 69 days near the northern town of San José. Their amazing rescue was international news.



President Pinera, right, joyfully hugs the first miner to be brought to the surface

The Chilean government provided generous compensation to the families so we didn't get involved, but the following year I met one of the miners, José Henriquez, when he was visiting Britain.

Some of the trapped miners had asked José to lead them in prayer. *"We Christians pray to a living God,"* he told them. *"If you are willing to pray to the living God then you can join me, otherwise you can pray to whatever god you believe in."* *"We'll pray to the living God,"* they replied! He continued, *"When we felt we had lost everything, I was able to say to them we hadn't lost prayer. We formed a circle of prayer and twice a day we would have prayer services where each one could pray and open his heart up."* Two backslidden Christians repented and then helped to lead the prayers. The men repeated Bible promises and cried to the Lord for rescue.

Eventually an exploratory probe almost found them but it missed their refuge by a metre, causing despair. Another attempt so close seemed inconceivable, but they gave themselves to prayer with renewed intensity. A further probe did come. A

particularly hard piece of rock diverted it at an angle so that it just penetrated the edge of their shelter and found them!

2011 With Sunday services already being held in a hired hall in Jardín del Sol, Miguel Pérez and his associate pastors baptized 50 new believers in January. Meanwhile the building work continued at a slow pace as funds became available.



50 new Christians were baptized in Lago Puyehue, January 2011

2012 Yet another conquest of the Welsh 3000s, this time by nine people from our church in Hazlemere just four days after my 70th birthday. We raised over £14,000. Out of this we were able to donate £13,000 to a Pehuenche horticultural project, enabling ten families to grow their own healthy food high in the Andes mountains.

The money reached them just in time. Only £7.64 remained in the project's bank account, and the technical director had been forced to accept a 50% cut in his previous month's salary – with a wife and two children to support!



Slogging up Elidir Fawr, mountain no. 4, July 2012

2015 The Lord provided Ann and me with the money to visit Chile again. We visited the fire station in Osorno to which Chile for Christ had previously sent partly used protective clothing and other fire-fighting equipment donated by Aylesbury Fire and Rescue and worth around £55,000 new. Every one of the volunteer firemen at the station had taken the day off their regular employment to meet us, wearing the uniforms we had sent. We enjoyed a buffet meal they had prepared and were treated to a ride round the block in their original 1928 fire engine. We gave each of them a Bible that I signed!



Miguel Pérez, Arnold Page, the Fire Station Manager and some of the Osorno firemen, 2015

2015 Another huge 8.4 Richter scale earthquake devastated Chile in September. A tidal wave 4.5 metres high destroyed boats and thousands of homes, injuring many people and leaving around a dozen dead. Over 1 million people had to evacuate their homes. We sent £1000 to the Chilean Anglican Church's relief effort among victims in Illapel.

On the 4th of December the beautiful 300-seat Jardín del Sol church was formally opened by the Mayor, Jaimé Bertín. Chile for Christ had contributed far more than the original £15,000 promised.

2015 - 2017

- We enabled Anne Aboaja to carry out an important self-funded PhD research project into the relationship between faith and mental health among women prisoners in Chile.

- Numbers of Chilean pastors and their wives have been able to take much needed holidays in the Bergmann's seaside flat and attend seminars there through a bursary fund we have established.
- We have bought Bibles, children's Bibles and 'Why Jesus?' booklets for several churches and have even equipped a small church library.
- With CFC's contributions to his travel expenses Pastor Ronny Pulgar has been able to continue his church planting work on the island of Tierra del Fuego. On 21st July this year the national Methodist Church in Chile obtained a loan of £36,000 to buy a small house in the principal town for conversion to a chapel!
- This year we are helping Pastor José Canipane and his wife Adela to rebuild their house and church which were both totally destroyed in January's unprecedented forest fires.



The church congregation at the inaugural service of the Filadelfia Church's new building in Jardín del Sol, 4th December 2015

Farewell!

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed over the years to this amazing ministry that the Lord gave me in such an unexpected way. I pray that you will continue to support and encourage the new trustees. They are going to dedicate their time and talents to God's service, but they won't be able to achieve anything without the donations and prayers of all you wonderful people.

My love to you all. *Arnold V Page*

Give thanks to God...

- For originally establishing the ministry of Chile for Christ and for blessing its work over twenty-five years since its registration as a charity.
- For finding gifted people to continue the work now and for giving them the willingness and courage to respond to God's call.
- For the decision of the Chilean Methodist Church to support Pastor Ronny Pulgar's vision for establishing a church in Tierra del Fuego.

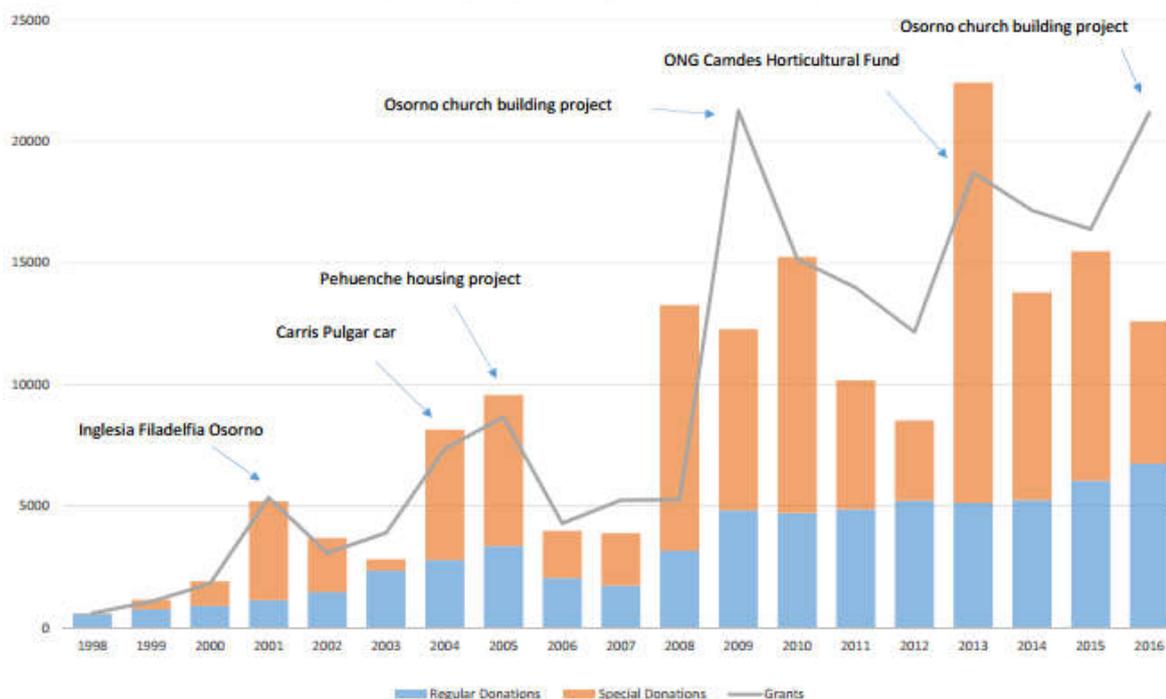


Osorno Mayor Jaime Bertín cuts the tape at the opening ceremony of the new church building in Jardín del Sol, 4th December 2015

Please pray...

- For the new Management Team, that they will be united in mind and spirit, that they will know the Lord's direction, and will accomplish his will with wisdom, imagination, perseverance and love.
- For Ronny Pulgar and his associates as they establish a Christian community in Porvenir, and for commitment to the vision by all the Chilean Methodists so that the loan can quickly be paid off.
- For Pastor Miguel Pérez who is due to have a major gall bladder operation in August.
- For Pastor José Canipane and his wife Adela, rebuilding their home and church with few human resources. May they be blessed by new people joining them, and have the physical and spiritual strength they need to persevere.
- For me, Arnold, as I turn my attention to completing and publishing two important books on the return of Jesus Christ! Look out for 'Z: The Final Generation' and 'Z: Preparing for Christ's Return'!

CHILE FOR CHRIST OVER THE YEARS



(c) Chile for Christ, 2017

If you do not want to keep this newsletter for your prayer times, please pass it on to somebody else so that more than one person can read it!