



Chile for Christ

News & prayer letter November 2014



Julian Harty demonstrates the latest technology to educational officials and school staff in Punta Arenas.

"The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand."

These were Jesus's opening words in Mark 1.15. When Jesus was born the time was fulfilled in this sense: Christian missionaries could travel to many lands in relative ease and safety as a result of Roman roads and law enforcement, and most people could speak Latin or Greek, so language was not a great barrier.

Martin Luther was also born at an opportune time for communicating the Gospel. The printing press had just been invented, so he was able to circulate his teaching in printed form, and in Latin, which all educated people in Europe could still understand. As a result he was able to kick-start the Reformation.

One generation however has seen an unparalleled increase in the ease of communication. The Internet, smart phones, electronic books, tablet computers, social media and Google's rapidly improving free translation program would all have been inconceivable when many of us were born. Even in remote parts of the world people can read the Bible and the message of salvation at the touch of a screen.

The implication of these astonishing developments is enormous. In the light of history one must ask: has the time now been fulfilled when the Kingdom of God is at hand in its final sense, the time when Christ will return as he promised to reign on the Earth?

As you will shortly read, using e-mail, printed literature, an MPG player and the electronic transfer of funds we shall soon be helping to spread the gospel in Tierra del Fuego. And you can't get much nearer the end of the Earth than that!

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come."
(Jesus Christ, in Matthew 24.14)

By supporting our efforts through your prayers and donations you are helping to bring nearer that amazing day!

Technologist receives prophetic words from Chilean pastors



Enthusiastic children try out the Android computers donated to the Puelmapu School in Santiago on a visit organized by Chile for Christ.

In April we asked you to pray for our efforts to contact the Chilean Ministry of Education, in the hope of setting up a meeting in August with our friend and technology expert Julian Harty. In the end Julian met some ten staff from the Ministry and remains in contact with them now! He spent several days visiting two schools in Santiago run by Christians for poorer children, and three more days down in Punta Arenas visiting a boarding school mainly for orphans.

Julian had managed to pack 15 Android tablet computers donated by Google into his hand luggage! He distributed these to the schools he visited, and gave the teachers a lot of advice and assistance in using them to obtain educational material via the Internet, either free of charge or at very low cost.

In Punta Arenas Julian was interviewed on local radio and had a write-up in the local newspaper, in which he was erroneously described as the inventor of the Raspberry Pi! This is a credit-card sized computer, which he was also able to demonstrate and donate. It contained 3000 educational videos and the entire Wikipedia encyclopaedia in Spanish.

He met the regional director of education and the deputy mayor as well as school staff. Several pastors prayed for him and brought encouraging words of prophecy for his unusual technological ministry! His interpreter was Ignacio Gomez, a famous Chilean tenor! Our friend Pastor Ronny Pulgar and his wife Betty provided hospitality.



Julian hands over equipment to Carlos Almonacid, head of the Argentine Republic School in P. Arenas

One problem Julian discovered was that the school he visited already had 40 computers, but for various reasons not one was being used. He encouraged the school to get them into service and make full use of them.

The Lord Jesus joins the Jardín del Sol building team

In May it was estimated that a further £22,300 would be needed to complete the new Filadelfia Church building in the Jardín del Sol district of Osorno. Nevertheless in June the Mayor of Osorno, who had approved the donation of public land for the project, together with the Director of Works and other public officials, inspected the construction site and they were all pleasantly surprised at the progress that had been made.



Pastor Miguel Pérez, right, welcomes the Mayor, Jaime Bertín, and the inspection team.

Since May the Trust has been able to donate a further £4634 as a result of several generous donations received for that purpose.

On September 3rd the first service was held, in the smaller of the two halls. Three men and seven women attended it. By September 21st 36 people were attending Sunday worship. *"It was a glorious service,"* wrote Miguel. *"The Lord poured out his Holy Spirit, and there were brothers speaking in other languages. Glory to God!"*



Standing room only in the still unfinished main hall on October 12th.

More was to come. Sunday October 12th saw the first meeting in the still unfinished main hall. 200 people from 20 different churches attended a Gift Service at which they contributed £700 to help to complete the building! Jesus promised, *“I will build my church...”* and he has clearly joined the team, confirming the Filadelfia Church’s vision for a Christian community in “The Garden of the Sun”.

Developments in pastoral support



A tiny open-air service held during a visit to a rural community by Pastor Esmenar Pérez in September.

Ever since Esmenar Pérez and his family moved to Osorno in 2010 the Trust has been helping to support him financially. In September Pastor Miguel formally handed over to Esmenar’s care the original Filadelfia Church congregation in the Francke district of Osorno. This means that with income from his congregation, together with fees from part-time teaching, Esmenar no longer needs our assistance. In a long farewell message to us he wrote, *“I thank God for the blessings received, and for your sincere love and unconditional friendship. Upon completion of the final goal in terms of financial support, I thank my Lord for having put you in our path.”*

Pastor Miguel Pérez, on the other hand, is now almost totally reliant for his family’s income on the tithes and offerings of his still fledgling congregation in Jardín del Sol, the personal tithes of two assistant pastors, and a small pension. With a current income of around £650 a month and a cost of living not very different from that in Britain life will be very difficult for him. For in addition to household expenditure he has to find about £75 a month for medication in connection

with two health issues, and pay for all his personal expenses in connection with the work of the church. You may remember that earlier in the year he sold his car to help pay for the construction work.

The Trust gave Miguel £200 for his current medical expenses, which he had been unable to afford, and we have agreed to double to £400 our quarterly grant to him for the next three years. Our prayer is that by then his new congregation will be able to support him and his wife Ana fully, as is right in the Lord.



Women in Jardín del Sol listen to Ana speak at an evangelistic tea party she organized on September 6th.

Next year Pastor Ronny Pulgar’s younger daughter Constanza is hoping to start higher education. We have been helping her elder sister Elizabeth through university with a quarterly grant of £200, so now we hope to have enough to support both of them during Elizabeth’s final year. Without our help it may not be possible for Constanza to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse.

Since July Constanza has been visiting her grandmother’s native land of Wales under the wing of the Welsh-speaking Methodist Church. We hope to visit her shortly.

A fire is kindled in the Land of Fire

Magellan named Tierra del Fuego the Land of Fire on seeing numerous small fires kindled by the natives for warmth. Now in answer to several years of prayer it looks as though the fire of God’s Spirit is being rekindled there. Since April Pastor Ronny Pulgar has made five trips across the Straits of Magellan to hunt out fellow Methodists and other Christians living on the Island, with the intention of starting a church there.

So far Ronny has contacted five Christian families comprising eighteen persons. From 17 to 19 October he took a small team from the mainland to visit homes, hold open-air services and provide a Sunday School for children and young people. He led worship in three homes with Holy Communion.



House Communion last month, Ronny on the left

Ronny intends to continue visiting the main town Porvenir every fortnight, usually with a fellow pastor. His goal is to appoint a suitable inhabitant to take charge of the work, and then to rent or preferably buy an existing property to use as a chapel, or else purchase land to build one on. He has identified for this purpose a neighbourhood where there is no church building at present. His next visit is scheduled for 14 and 15 November.

The return fare by boat to Porvenir is £16.25 per person, and to rent a house for worship would cost £325 a month, so money is needed for this work to continue. Members of the two Methodist Churches on the mainland have been given collecting tins, and several friends and acquaintances have become “Friends of Porvenir Mission”, promising monthly contributions which currently total £108 a month.



Church members with collecting boxes at a service of dedication for the mission to Tierra del Fuego

“The Lord has prepared the ground, we need to sow the seed, then will come the harvest,” Ronny writes. *“I plead for fervent prayer that the banner of the gospel may spread out in the city and that many may be redeemed through the blood of Christ.”*

Chile for Christ has been given a total of £2635 for mission work on the Island. We could spend some of this money on literature such as the Spanish version of Nicky Gumbel’s book, “Why Jesus?”, or help with travel costs, or invest it in readiness for the purchase of a property. We need to know the mind of the Lord in this!



House to house visiting in Porvenir

Winter food parcels

July brings deep snow, freezing winds and little to eat for the Pehuenche communities living high in the Andes Mountains. This year the Trust contributed £170 to buy 10 food parcels for delivery by members of the Chilean Anglican Church.



Handing over the first parcel on July 12th, 2014

In June we were also able to send the Christians there a second “Saber” MPG player with recordings of the Gospel stories and evangelistic teaching and songs in the Mapudungun language.

The Chilean Anglican Church's Mission and Social Development Agency has helped to transform the lives of the Pehuenche communities in the last 20 years. Its secretary asked us earlier this year if we would be willing to pay the salary of a full-time fundraiser for his first six months in office. After seeking advice and praying we agreed to pay Hector Enriquez's salary for six months, £2250 in total, which we have done. We hope to have news of his progress next time.

Ministry to pastors and church leaders

Gerd and Rosi Bergmann are a German missionary couple who have been serving God in Chile for several years, teaching Christians to understand better the grace of God and ministering to Chilean pastors and church leaders. Chile for Christ has recently been promised £600 a year to pay the expenses of Chilean pastors in need of rest, inspiration, teaching or counselling. We have asked Gerd to use this money for bursaries to enable pastors to benefit from his ministry in the seaside town of Pichilemu.



Gerd, Carina, Rosi, Benjamin, Samuel and Jonathan Bergmann

The Bergmann's educate their four children at home, which is a big responsibility, and they also need a car!

A voice in the wilderness

Federico Bascuñán took over the leadership of the 50-member Anglican Church of St Andrew's in Arica about two years ago, after CMS missionaries David and Jean Hucker returned to England.

Arica is Chile's most northerly town, situated on the edge of the Atacama Desert. Federico tells us that the area is dry spiritually, too.

"The people here have very hard hearts. There is a strong element of Peruvian and Bolivian culture, involving ancestral and Earth worship. Cohabitation is common even among Christians. But there is nothing and no-one who can resist the Lord, because every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

We have offered to pay for the purchase of copies of "Why Jesus?" in Spanish, and further copies of children's Bibles if these can be used in evangelistic outreach to neighbours. Meanwhile Federico asks us to pray for his work among married and unmarried couples, for wisdom, and for the money needed to repair the church roof.

Female prisoners, mental health and religious faith



Anne Aboaja, reading for a PhD in Global Health at the University of Edinburgh

Anne Aboaja is a self-funded PhD student who is studying the relationship of faith, particularly the Christian faith, with the mental health of female prisoners in Chile and Bolivia. In July she obtained permission to conduct around 75 interviews with inmates of Santiago's Women's Prison. Her aim is to produce guidance to chaplains and prison staff that will help such women to avoid depression and mental illness through faith in Christ.

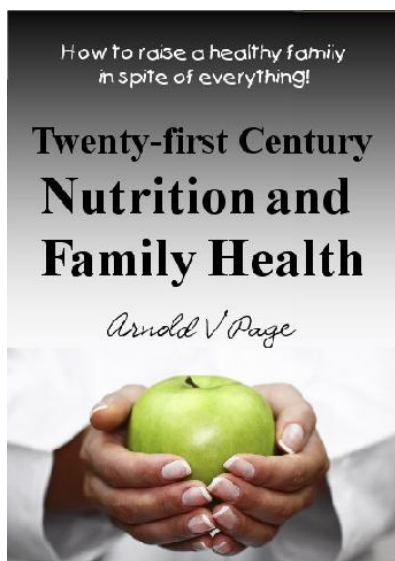
The trustees felt it was worthwhile to support her work with a grant of £1000 for each of her two years of research.

You can now text a donation to us

If you ever feel like sending a small donation, perhaps a thank offering for some unexpected blessing or a response to the prompting of God's Spirit, you can now do so very simply from your mobile phone. Type the code "CFCT10" followed by a space and then the amount in pounds. For example, to send £5 you would text "CFCT10 £5". Send it to 70070. Please pass the news on to your church!

Improve your health by supporting CFC!

Our Director has written an amazing book called "21st Century Nutrition and Family Health". It explains why so many people are suffering from obesity, heart trouble and diabetes; why much of the dietary advice we are given is wrong; and how every family can put things right. Publication is expected towards the end of November. Half the profits will go to Chile for Christ, so buy it for your own good this Christmas, leave a stunning review of it on Amazon, etc., then recommend it to all your family, neighbours and friends!



A very special cruise

A year ago Arnold and his wife Ann had a dream of celebrating next year's golden wedding anniversary by flying to Santiago and sailing in the Golden Princess around the coast of Chile. Ann was encouraged by the words of Psalm 139: *"If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."*

Shortly after that Arnold received a repayment of £4600 from his company pension provider, with an apology for underpaying him since his retirement in 2007!



The Princess Line's cruise ship "Golden Princess"

So in January Arnold and Ann, together with fellow trustee Brenda Gooding and her husband David, will be able to visit some of the people that the Trust has helped, encouraged by the Lord!

Give thanks...

for all the good things you have read about here, especially for the Lord's answers to prayers for Julian Harty's meetings in Chile and for the outreach to Tierra del Fuego.

Please pray...

- that the teachers and Ministry officials Julian met will build on the advice he gave them, and that the Lord will clearly guide him in his future course
- for Miguel and Ana Perez's ministry to the residents of Jardín del Sol, and for a car; also for Esmenar and Marta's new ministry in the Francke district of Osorno
- that the Lord will bless the outreach in Tierra del Fuego, keep Ronny Pulgar in good health, find a good and gifted man to pastor and disciple the fledgling church there, and provide a building for worship
- for Gerd Bergmann and family, Anne Aboaja, and Federico and Rosa Bascuñán
- that Arnold's book will be a best seller
- for God's blessing on the journey to Chile next year and on all the meetings there.

Thank you for your continuing support.

May the Lord bless you richly.