



# Chile for Christ

## News & prayer letter November 2015



Chileans stoically spend a night in the street following September's huge earthquake north of Santiago

### A million Chileans flee powerful earthquake

On Wednesday 16th September a huge earthquake devastated the towns and villages along Chile's coast north of Santiago. The 8.4 Richter scale quake was four times as powerful as recent earthquakes in Nepal and Japan. 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 and spend the night outside, bravely enduring another of the natural disasters which have become a fact of life in their land. This year Chile has suffered floods in the north, a drought and forest fires in the south, and two major volcanic eruptions.



Even graves opened in Illapel, causing a public health hazard

In Illapel, the closest habitation to the epicentre, electricity and other basic services failed, a cemetery was destroyed, and some of the graves opened up.

One reporter spoke to Maria Zamorano, the matriarch of a large family in Coquimbo. "We have lost everything – television, beds, the kitchen, etc.," she said. "But we are strengthened in the Lord, and we know that we will come out on top."



Coquimbo, where Maria's house once stood

What is particularly sad is that Chileans were about to begin four days of a national holiday to celebrate the anniversary of the country's independence on September 18th.

Chile for Christ has sent £1000 to the Chilean Anglican Church towards their relief effort among earthquake victims in Illapel. We could still send more if any readers are moved to help.



Main auditorium in new Filadelfia Church building, Jardin del Sol, Osorno. September 2015

### New pastor appointed for the Filadelfia Church

Roberto Nuñez, a long-time servant of Osorno's Filadelfia Church, has been ordained as a pastor for the rural church of Callipulli, together with his wife Elena Canio. Miguel Pérez, senior pastor of the Filadelfia Church, anointed them during a service of ordination on October 17<sup>th</sup>, using a horn of oil like the one that Samuel used to anoint David as King.



Pastor Miguel anoints Roberto and Elena Nuñez at a service in Callipulli, a village to the east of Osorno.

### New Filadelfia Church building approaches completion

In the hope of completing their new church building later this month, the leaders of the Filadelfia Church took out a loan for the equivalent of £4138 and asked CFC if it would be possible for us to provide the remaining £4700 still needed. They provided clear accounts, and since the Trust had sufficient funds the trustees agreed to send this gift in October.

On October 17<sup>th</sup> the church's young people organized a fund-raising dinner for the building fund, with games, competitions and prizes.

So six years after the first stone was laid it looks as though the end is in sight!



Guests at fundraising dinner, young waiters in the background

### British gap year student turns Chilean school Scottish!

Each year Chile for Christ gives small grants of £100 (or occasionally £200) towards the £5650 that students sponsored by the charity Project Trust each have to raise in order to spend a year as English teaching assistants in Chilean schools or as assistant carers in homes for the disabled there.

Andrew Dobie and a fellow Project Trust student have been running after-school classes in the English language and Scottish culture at their Valparaiso school. Andrew can now teach staff and students for 45 minutes in Spanish after learning it for only two months!

So on November 30<sup>th</sup> the school will celebrate St Andrew's Day for the first time in its history with a ceilidh. The pupils have learned the Gay Gordons and other dances in preparation. CFC Director Arnold Page even sent Andrew an old recipe for haggis!



Andrew's Chilean family and friends celebrate his birthday with the traditional cake thrown in his face!

Taran Vear, the other student we supported this year, is working in two care homes and a school for the disabled on the island of Chiloe. She writes,

*In the adults' home the residents have varying levels of disability and we mostly do recreational activities such as cooking and crafts, but we also help the women get ready to go to school and help them paint their nails and put makeup on.*

*In the children's home we also do recreational activities such as crafts but we also take some of the younger children, or some of the teens with learning difficulties who can't go out without an adult, to the park or to the plaza if it's a nice day. We also help the occupational therapist with her activities and do small jobs around the home.*

*In the school I mostly work with adults and young people with very severe disabilities. I help them eat their breakfast/lunch, do simple maths or following simple instructions with some of the less able students. I basically work as a full classroom assistant there and I get involved with all of the daily activities.*

*Thanks so much for your prayers, it means a lot to us.*

These young people, who can generally speak no Spanish when they first go to Chile, are truly amazing!

## Slow but sure church growth in Tierra del Fuego

Ronny Pulgar, the Methodist pastor in Punta Arenas, has continued to visit homes in the Chilean town of Porvenir once a month, even in the icy depths of winter. His new Christian community has grown to six families totalling twenty people. He visits each home in turn for a short time of prayer, Bible reading, worship and pastoral conversations. The mainland church funds the cost of the ferry and road transport, but a monthly visit is really inadequate. *'It is necessary to pray to the Lord to send a worker to be there permanently and make Porvenir his residence,'* he writes. He also says that it would be good to buy more Bibles.



Ronny recording a 10-minute talk entitled 'Divine Footprints' on Porvenir Radio in October

Ronny continues to hope that one day it will be possible to buy a building for use as a church there, but meanwhile he is copying the examples of house churches in the book of Acts.

Would you like to make a donation to Ronny via Chile for Christ so that he can purchase Bibles, children's Bibles, and the booklet 'Why Jesus?' in Spanish, thereby making his visits even more effective?

## A job offer and a job need

Until recently Nancy Duarte Gómez was the secretary and treasurer of CAMDES, the Chilean Anglican Church's Mission and Social Development Organization. Earlier this year the organization was wound up due to lack of funding, but now Nancy has been offered a post as a director of a charity that helps immigrant Latin Americans in

Chicago, USA. She asks for our prayers about this opening.

Her present church in Temuco has a ministry to children from broken homes where drugs and abuse are part of their particular culture. She wonders whether we might help in some way, *'perhaps in the construction of a kindergarden'*.

CAMDES had previously employed a young technician, Leonel Collilen, to supervise bee-keeping, horticulture and woodworking projects among the Pehuenche people. Now, with a wife and two small children, Leonel is in urgent need of a new job.

### An excellent Christmas present

Our Director still has a few paperback copies of his excellent book "Twenty-First Century Nutrition and Family Health" for sale at the reduced price of £9.99. Why not buy a copy as a Christmas present for someone you love? Send Chile for Christ a cheque made out to "Anastasis Ltd" for £12.70 to cover postage, or buy the book online at [www.booksforlife.today](http://www.booksforlife.today). Half of any profits will go to Chile for Christ. This is truly a life-changing book, as more than one reader has testified.

### Finally

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!

### Give thanks...

- that the death toll in the recent Chilean earthquake was so low, and for the opportunities that natural disasters give Christians to demonstrate the love, compassion and generosity of Christ
- for the ordination of Roberto Nuñez and Elena Canio to the ministry in Callipulli, and for the approaching completion of the new church building in Jardín del Sol

- for Ronny Pulgar's continuing faithful missionary work in Tierra del Fuego, and for the new families being added to the church there.

### Please pray...

- for all the victims of the earthquake who are mourning, recovering from injury, or trying to repair or replace their damaged homes, and especially for any traumatized children
- that Roberto and Elena's work in Callipulli will bear much fruit, and that their small congregation will somehow find the means to support them financially
- for God's continuing protection and blessing on Andrew Dobie and Taran Vear, and that through their service and fellowship with Chilean Christians their own faith will be deepened
- that the Lord will continue to bless the outreach and new believers in Tierra del Fuego, keep Ronny Pulgar in good health, find a gifted man to pastor and disciple the fledgling church there, and provide a building for worship
- that the Lord will guide Nancy Duarte in her application for work in Chicago, that he will help Leonel Collilen to find employment, and for the trustees' response to the idea of a kindergarden.

Thank you for your continuing support for our work in Chile. May the Lord bless you richly.

### Arnold V Page, Director



Congregation at the ordination of Pastor Nuñez