

The Kirk family

Church Mission Society - March 2013



Iglesia Pablo Apostol

*"I am prepared to go anywhere provided it be forward"
David Livingstone*

I've just given a talk in the University Federico de Santa María in Valparaíso. It was to 45 six formers from the St. Paul's School to start off a retreat on Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurialship.

I had to kick off with half an hour of the subject from a Christian point of view. It didn't go very well (half of them drifted off - not sure whether it was because it was siesta time (2.20pm) or because I was asked to give it english and it went over their heads) but I was inspired by my example - David Livingstone.

His persistence in the face of many difficulties, failures and challenges is inspiring so I'll leave you this quote:

'I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If any thing will advance the interests of the Kingdom it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving away or keeping it I shall promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hope in time and eternity'.

Fire in Valpo

At the end of February just as we most of our pastoral team were off on holiday or setting off there was a terrible fire that ravaged several 'cerros' in Valparaíso.

Hundreds of houses were completely burnt to the ground as the fire rampaged from one hill to another without anything being able



Fire in Valparaiso left more than 1200 people destitute

to stop it. There are many agencies helping out and as a church we have been trying to do our small part. Another Anglican pastor, my great friend Christian (*see photo below*) has linked up to one sector and two families (one Christian and the other not) and we are now beginning to work with them in a long term way. Emergency supplies were given, tools to help them put up emergency accommodation and we would also like to get involved in helping them rebuild their houses.

Don Manuel, is heartbroken because on his plot of land there were five houses - his and that of his four sons, all built by the family and which have been totally destroyed. At 64 he used his life savings, which he had hoped to buy a bus with on retirement next year, to build a couple of rooms over the only stone wall that survived. We hope that we can be of service and that he can find consolation in Jesus. We are also helping a couple of pregnant women in the area with



baby clothes as well as looking to provide warm clothes for these familias as they only escaped with the clothes on their backs and have no coats or warm clothes for winter. If anyone would like to help with these needs (or for anything else in the church plant) please let us know and we'll work out a way to channel resources.



Our team!

We'd like to present a few folk who are now working with us.



Ione has almost 2 decades of experience of working in San Pedro (one of the churches that our team come from). She will be working part time and dividing her talents bet-ween women's ministry, social projects (such as liaising with folk affected by the fire) and helping with all on the administrative side of church life. We are very happy to have her working with us.



Diego has just started as an apprentice with me. He will be learning and helping with us in Valpo for 2 years before he goes off to Bible College (CEP) in Santiago with the idea of becoming a pastor later. We got to know him and Sabrina when we did pre-marital counselling with them in 2011. They are just celebrating a year of marriage and moved last week to live on one of the oldest and most historic hills - Cerro Alegre, in



Valparaiso.

Francisco is the last member of my pastoral team. He works in various universities in the area of marine biology and is in the process of buying a flat in part of Valpo called 'Valle de los Ingleses'!! He is a single man in his late 20s who is very talented in different ways. This is the team that I will be working most closely with - just so that you can know them and pray for them - they'll need it a lot!

Praise God!

- Thank you for your prayers about the summer activities for IPA, they went really well. We met up regularly as a group to pray and plan for Valpo, they were joyful opportunities to dream together about God's Kingdom growing. **EQUIPA** (as we call our core team) will continue to meet up once a month.
- Evelyn and Rodrigo's wedding was a happy affair and they have settled really well into their new life as a couple. We are also now looking forward to doing the pre-marriage counselling for another 2 couples in our church plant!!
- "Chicas IPA" (Our "girls" Group at church) studied 2 Timothy together during the summer. It was a great opportunity to learn more about our wonderful saviour, as well as being encourage by Paul's example.
- We enjoyed our time in Caburga, the summer Christian camp where Dan led some studies on Jonah and also a talk about fasting. Whilst Ellelein and the boys enjoyed joining in the different activities offered there.



- IPA has just started meeting in a coffee shop - Colombian coffee for those who are interested! It's called Puro Cafe and is in the center of Valparaiso, near the main square in front of the Catholic Cathedral. We've rented it with the help of Generación – a Chilean church planting foundation who have accepted our five year project to start a church in Valpo and will also help towards our 'apprentice' and 'pastoral assistant'.
- So we have our place for a year after having been in a couple of churches over the last six months and we trust that it will be a place where many can come and feel at home and also meet Jesus.

Prayer points:

Ellelein's big conference is coming up quickly. It is called LAEL (she who belongs to Him) and the organisers are hoping for between 300-500 women. Ellelein has 3 sessions to whizz through the book of Hebrews and show what it teaches us about God and relationships with each other. She is obviously a bit nervous as she has only taught in small women's groups but has prepared well and so please pray that the Holy Spirit may use her to touch others.



We have just started two missional communities (MC) one of which is in Recreo (the last hill in Viña before getting to Valparaíso). On Tuesday the second of Abril we will have an asado (a great Chilean BBQ) to begin an Alpha and we hope that some of the parents of the nearby St Paul's (where David and Joshua are) will be able to come along and get stuck in. Please pray that many will come along and stay for the whole course to hear about Jesus.



Last Wednesday the other missional community began in Puro Cafe. We have begun six weeks of 'The question club' based on the gospel of Mark. We had five visitors and some lively discussions. I learnt all about 'Indigo' people and discovered that Jesus was one of them! With all these evangelistic endeavours we don't just want folk to come along but to be captivated by Jesus and begin to follow him.



On Good Friday we decided that instead of having a service that we will go to a couple of places and offer to serve folk in a practical way as well as giving out coffees and invitations to one of our MCs.

On Easter Sunday we will go down to one of the quays in Valpo and have a Sunday service to celebrate the resurrection together as the sun comes up. Those who are brave or mad might have a dip in the sea.

We also would like you to continue to pray for us finding a house in Valparaíso soon.

Thanks again for your mail, magazines, calls and messages on FB. We really appreciate your support.

With love in Christ.

Daniel, Ellelein, David & Joshua



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