

Link Letter No.6 March 2014

Por tanto, vayan y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones. (Mateo 28.19)

Dear friends,

Greetings from Chile!

A change of government...

The constitution states that the governmental handover, with most of the Latin American presidents assisting, must happen on 11 March. So this week I was again pleasantly surprised at all the policemen out on the roads to make sure that my travelling on my birthday went smoothly and without incident! In fact it brought back the fact that we arrived in Chile over eight years ago when Michelle Bachelet was campaigning for her first term in office.

Her period was the last term of 20 years of left of centre governance after Pinochet stepped down.

Finally, the right of centre got a look in 2010 with the multi-millionaire Sebastian Piñera (who



IPA has four areas of relationships that we focus in on - see text (right)



Daniel and Ellelein Kirk CMS mission partners **Chile**

Daniel and Ellelein, with their two boys David and Joshua, are CMS mission partners serving the Chilean church where they have been since 2005. After two three-year terms working pastorally with the Anglican Church 'La Resurrección' in Gómez Carreño and helping with Chile's V region's lay training bible courses across Anglican churches there, they are looking forward to returning to the area to plant a church in Valparaíso, Chile's largest port. They hope to focus on young professional families and students and develop a church that reaches out to the whole city, with a heart for training and sending out missionaries.

became known worldwide during the miners' rescue). Bachelet won again, convincingly, last year and begins her second four year term heading up *the Nueva Mayoría* coalition. We pray that God may bless, and guide her and Chile in this new term.

IPA has four areas of relationships that we try to focus on: *Abajo, arriba, adentro and afuera*. One of these is Abajo (how we understand the gospel of Christ and grow in knowledge and obedience of

God through the word imparted by the Spirit).

Discipling others

We have different forms of discipleship in IPA. I'm reading through Galatians with a couple in their 50s and going through a beginners' discipleship with a couple of youngsters our age. Over the last couple of years we have had nearly all the congregation in same sex discipleship groups of three or four folk, which has led to spiritual growth, deep friendships and a greater commitment to make disciples.

This term I'll be taking seven young men in their twenties through a similar discipleship process focusing on leadership. Please pray for this time, as hopefully this will set the basis for future church leadership. However in this link letter, I'd like to share with you a bit about two couples who work as apprentices with us.

Diego and Sabrina, Gabriel and Rebeca

Some of you may have recently met Diego, who started as an apprentice last year, and his wife

Sabrina as they spent January in England. They live in the more bohemian part of Valparaíso, near where Sabi is finishing her musical studies in the Catholic University of Chile. Diego, after some preparation last year, took over the Missional Community of Victoria that meets in our coffee shop.

Diego is passionate about sharing Jesus with others, having come from an atheistic background himself. After running an Alpha course last year and then a follow up discipleship course with four students, he is starting a Christianity Explored course this term. A dozen folk turned up for a preliminary meeting last week and the idea is that they all invite



Our church with Tyler at the back (CMS short term missionary) working at St Paul's school. Dan will be mentoring him



Groups at Comunidad victoria

friends this Wednesday. We pray that many others may come to know Jesus through the opportunities that this opens up. Sabi has been a great support to this missional community, through the gift of hospitality. Diego has also been leading on the technological front with great presentations for services and sermons, invitations and our facebook page. Do have a visit! **www.facebook.com/IglesiaValpo**



Daniel preaching

This year Gabriel has started his first

of two years as an apprentice. Gabriel is from a strong Christian background with his parents involved in GBU (similar to UCCF) and a drug rehabilitation centre. Gabriel is the type of person who seems to know everyone and has friends all over the place. After finishing a degree in social finance, he won a scholarship to serve for a year in a national programme called “*Servicio País*” working with a rural community about five hours from here. He organized, in conjunction with GBU, the Experimento Marcos, mentioned in our last letter and which finished off last year with a bang.

Gabriel is currently working with our pastoral assistant, Ione, on an emergency contingency plan that the diocese has asked them to develop. This is after our involvement last year in helping some families who lost their houses through a terrible fire in Cerro Placeres. We are now praying that we will soon start a new missional community in this area and that Gabriel will head it up. He, along with his future wife Rebeca, will also be looking to work through some of CAP’s (Christian against poverty) material to see what might be adaptable to our context in Valparaíso. Many people in Chile from all different sectors of society have large debt problems and we feel that there is a great need that we can share biblical answers to help people in the future.

Spiritual formation

We are looking to start a project with our local YMCA, which involves us helping with spiritual formation and getting involved in some social problems. We have begun this relationship by linking in a South Korean missionary who will start teaching taekwondo there in April and we hope doors will continue to open to share the gospel with the hundreds of young people who use the facilities, the staff and volunteers.

The apprenticeship scheme is a great way to do in depth discipleship based around three areas of convictions, character and capabilities. Please click here for a great blog on

the use of apprentices in a small church, written by my university friend Richard Perkins: <http://theurbanpastor.wordpress.com/2013/01/02/ministry-apprenticeships-small-church-style> We trust that Diego and Gabriel will grow in our Lord and serve him faithfully always.

Ellelein has been asked to give a talk on relationships early in May in Concepcion, in the south of Chile, and is currently doing a conflict resolution online course with the peacemakers, with a practical session in May. We are also planning to start another Alpha marriage course at the end of April at St Paul's school and Ellelein will also be meeting up with Sabi and Rebeca as "future" pastor wives, to talk and share about different issues within the ministry. She is also involved in Sunday school and we have our first event outside church with a water bomb fight to say goodbye to the summer!

Discipleship at home

Sometimes we think of discipleship as a programme or something slightly exotic which needs specialist skills. All parents are involved in discipleship; the question is whether there is any intentionality about it or not. The place where we fail the most and learn the most about God's grace as a couple is with our children (our relationship following on close behind!). Ellelein is the most involved with the boys on a daily basis but one of the advantages of being out almost every weekday evening is that I can spend some afternoons with David and Joshua.

David was chosen as a candidate to be president for his year (year 4) for a term in his school and he gave his first speech last week. He was very excited and everything went well; he is just now waiting for the results, which will be announced next week. Josh has adjusted really well to the change from kindergarten to reception and is enjoying school a lot.

The summer seems long ago and as we face the autumn and winter here, we would value your prayers on the health front. Please also keep on praying for a house in Valpo for us.

We do thank you for your partnership in this attempt to make disciples of all the nations. Your participation with us is vital – without your support none of this would be possible.

Daniel, Ellelein, Josh and David

"Lo que me has oído decir en presencia de muchos testigos encomiéndalo a creyentes dignos de confianza, que a su vez estén capacitados para enseñar a otros." 2 Timoteo 2.2

PS. Did you know that you can now receive link letters by email, sent as a pdf? If you would like to receive them this way and help CMS save money, please contact **the links team** at links@cms-uk.org.

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