

Link Letter No.11 April 2014

Very dear praying friends,

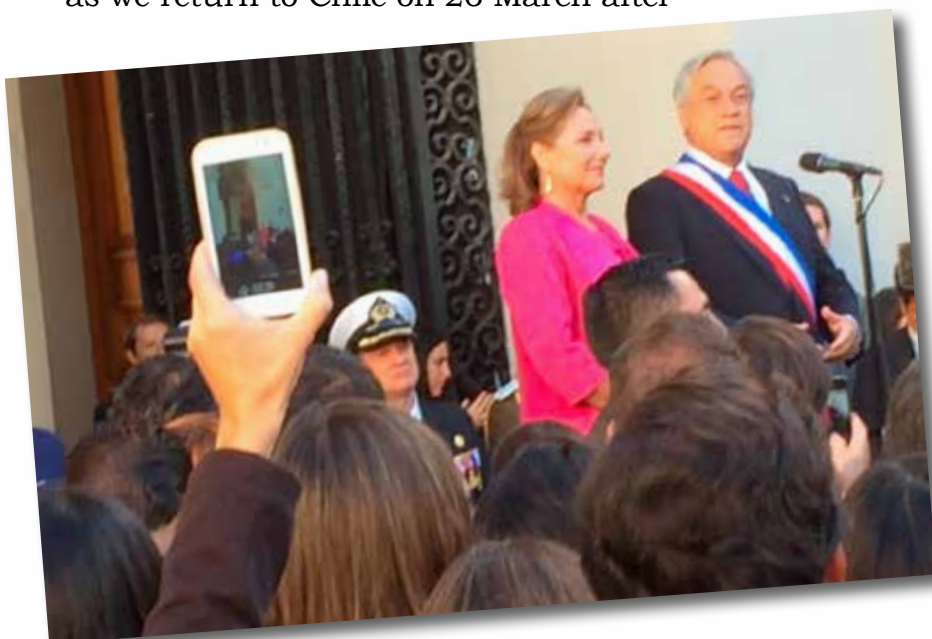
“Bye, bye, Mr President!”

On Tuesday 11 March, Sebastián Piñera’s presidency came to an end and he handed over power to Michelle Bachelet, assuming her second term as First Authority (as they say in Chile). I too resigned my chaplaincy in due custom, as each president names his or her Catholic and Protestant chaplains. However, there is a certain vacuum for the moment since no new chaplain has been named. Should I go in and do a holding operation for the time being? Can I re-enter the palace? All this I will know soon as we return to Chile on 26 March after



Alf and Hilary Cooper
CMS mission partners
Chile

Alf is an Anglo-Chilean who became a SAMS mission partner in 1975. Hilary is the sister of Terry Barratt (a CMS associate mission partner) and she and Alf have pioneered many initiatives in evangelism, discipleship and church planting in their years in the Chilean capital, Santiago. Alf is pastor of La Trinidad church in Las Condes, an upper middle-class area of the city; a man of prayer and action, he’s a key leader in the country’s growing evangelical movement. He and Hilary have four children, born between 1979 and 1990.



Sebastián Piñera’s presidency has come to an end...

a mission to Jupiter Island. The issues are complicated because the new government has committed itself to doing everything Piñera vetoed: abortion, homosexual marriage, Marijuana legalisation.

Evangelicals are divided and the

names coming forward as potential chaplains and official representatives are seen as “liberal”, who would offer little backbone resistance to the new agenda. Welcome, Chile, to the rest of the world, one could say! But we are not convinced. In Colombia a massive alliance between evangelicals and

Christian senators turned these laws around. It will take strong, wise leadership and action to keep in place what we were able to hold down these four years.

Jupiter Island

A rather secret island on the East coast of Florida, it is inhabited by some of the nicest and richest people on earth, along with highly successful “snow birds” that spend the winter months hiding from the freezing north blizzards. They have a chapel, the only church on the island, which was celebrating their 75th anniversary



and they wanted to do something special. It just so happens that David and Rosemary Prior, my lovely first cousin and her rector husband, have been their much beloved pastors for a number of years now. They fly over from England for some months of the year and David needs to be a good golfer to survive this ministry! It was they who,



With friends on Jupiter Island

45 years ago, introduced a rebellious 19-year-old existentialist, experimenting with drugs, occultism and Hinduism (me!) to the risen Christ. I am eternally grateful to them!

They got the idea into their heads that to celebrate the event, Hilary and I should be their evangelist speakers, together with José Henriquez and his wife Blanca, the miner from the famous Copiapó mine rescue. The results were very special. We saw almost double the normal congregation turn out at both the morning service and the public event in the Tangerine Theatre. Testimonies abounded afterwards as many expressed their desire to commit their lives more closely to Jesus Christ.

At the anniversary service I couldn't help breaking down altogether as I handed David a present of a hand knitted Mapuche clerical scarf. It meant so much to Hilary and myself, to share in this context with him and Rosemary. The time on the island, and a small holiday after it, was like a time of closure to four of the most intense years of our ministry. We now feel dangerously free as birds! Where will the wind take us?

Mark and Dani

Our beloved last son, Mark, amazing Christian leader, musician and student (he never failed an exam in his life and so subsequently has finished university and a master's degree in record time) and Daniela (Aracelli's sister!) have announced their engagement, to be married on 27 December of this year.

We are delighted as they have been courting for five years and are a very special Christian couple who want to serve the Lord. As you can



Mark and Dani

see, the DNA is similar to Jahnn and Ara's DNA who, incidentally, are coming over soon for another sister's (Maca) wedding this month. Life is sure exciting!

As we look ahead to a new chapter, God clearly leads us into His presence more and more. We are persuaded that the only place of constant life and power and joy in the Holy Spirit is in His presence and that from that "*Perfume Factory*" emanates all that is meaningful in the gospel witness.

Pray for us that we may not fail to remain in the grace of God's love and authority. In that way we will not "weary in well doing" as Paul puts it until we see that "harvest" so longed for ripen and burst forth in fruit in the growing La Trinidad ministry. We are preparing to build a balcony that should allow another 400 people to fit in our services... all this over the next few months.

Pray for us!

With our love,

Alfred and Hilary

www.cms-uk.org



Church Mission Society

Watlington Road, Oxford, OX4 6BZ Tel: 01865 787400 Fax: 01865 776375
Email: info@cms-uk.org www.cms-uk.org Registered Charity Number 1131655