

Link Letter No.12 July 2014

Very dear praying friends,

I write this link letter in deep gloom after Chile narrowly missed beating host country Brazil by bashing against the cross bar a penalty in the last 16 of the World Cup. We definitely deserved to win and the lads put everything they had into it. Our family roared our way through the match. But then sadness until a Chilean beggar rang a bell and brought us back the real world. "No, chief," he said smiling, "you shouldn't be sad... there are more important things in the world. Anyway 3x2 against Brazil is historic and we are proud!" My grandson Nico gave him a sandwich and biscuits, and life began to



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.



Nico, painted up for the Chile Brazil match

return to normal! Oh, the passion here over football.

But there is also passion stirring for the Lord and His cause! We are writing a church planting manual which I hope will be a kind of heritage that goes beyond our personal reach here. It is aimed at leading a pastor right through to



With the new chaplain, Gloria Rojas (in the middle)

planning, developing and multiplying churches in our context and beyond. It borrows heavily from the training and multiply that is available through SEAN*. Pray that we complete this one.

*** S.E.A.N (Study by Extension for All Nations) is based on the concepts and work of George Patterson who, when departing the mission field, gave SEAN hundreds of small booklet style lessons he had used extremely successfully over the years.**

I am also finally out of the palace as a new chaplain has been named at last! This has meant that I am writing my book “*Secrets of the Palace*”, a behind the scenes look at the chaplains’ journey through the presidency years, and parallel references to the really important palace that is open to all who will call on the name of Jesus. Pray for the discipline to write!

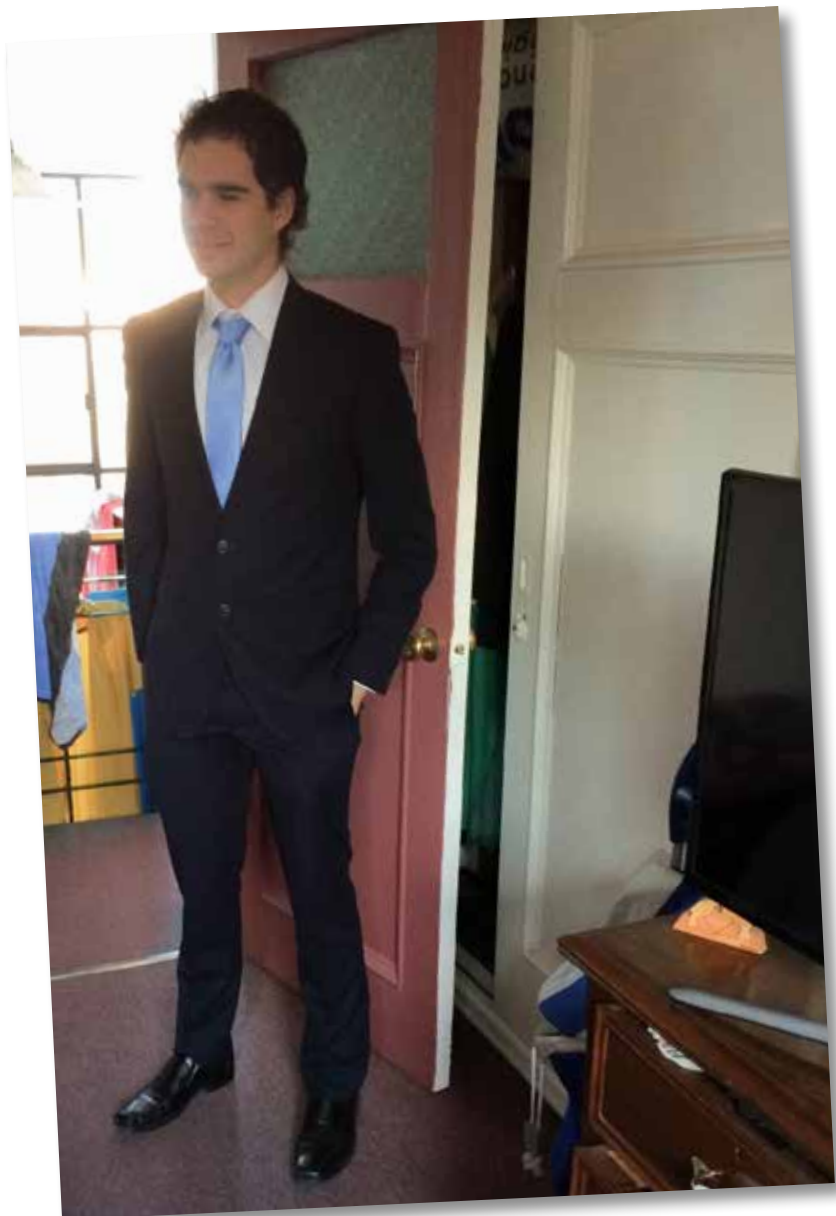
The chaplaincy years served, as you gathered, put me at the centre of the evangelical world here. The “*evangélicos*” are mostly the Pentecostals who still grow and work towards national revival. However, I was able to understand that all is not

well at leadership level. Division, political ambition, compromise and drifting from a biblical stand are the ways in which the devil has weakened the churches. Five of us have taken a bold stand and formed a new movement called the *Foro Pastoral Evangélico* (Evangelical Pastoral Forum) that is having a wonderfully uniting effect on the church here. We called for and planned a nationwide night of national prayer “*Chile ora por Chile*” on 11 July. This was a great event that should get the ball rolling in the right direction again. Pray for our integrity and constancy in this movement.

Our family is rejoicing again. This time it has to do with Mark. Not only has he finally completed his Masters in Economic Engineering (as it is called here) but he has already been offered a job at IM Trust, a large banking concern in the Americas.

This will help him and Dani concrete their plans for marriage on 27 December. Their hearts are in following the footsteps of Jahnn and Ara in mission one day but for the moment sense God guiding into secular work for him.

This morning we had a celebratory breakfast, and Mark, Melanie and I and enjoyed so much recounting God’s blessings upon us as a family! Pray for him as



Mark looking the part for his new job at IM Trust

he begins this work this month!

Nico has been accepted at the Grange School, now third generation of Grangeonians. He gave us a scare when he wouldn't go into this exam, but finally with some strong coaxing from Mum was in and sailed through. This means that when I finish my chapel duties there on a Thursday, I can then go and see him playing through his classroom window! Pray for him as he prepares to start next March!

We are about to be very uncomfortable in our church. The local Municipality has given permission for us to build a balcony at the back of the church to take in another 120 people per service. We expect that we will be put out for about three months and then we would begin to receive the benefits of more space and less services! For a season at any rate!

Pray for our health over these winter months: We are fine! We want to stay that way in smoggy Santiago. Hilary's Arthritis becomes slightly painful at times but seems under control. We are investigating diets, and various testimonies of healing from this hereditary illness.

With our sincere love in Christ,

Alfred and Hilary and Mark (for the moment!)

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