

## Link Letter no. 2 April 2011

### Dear friends,

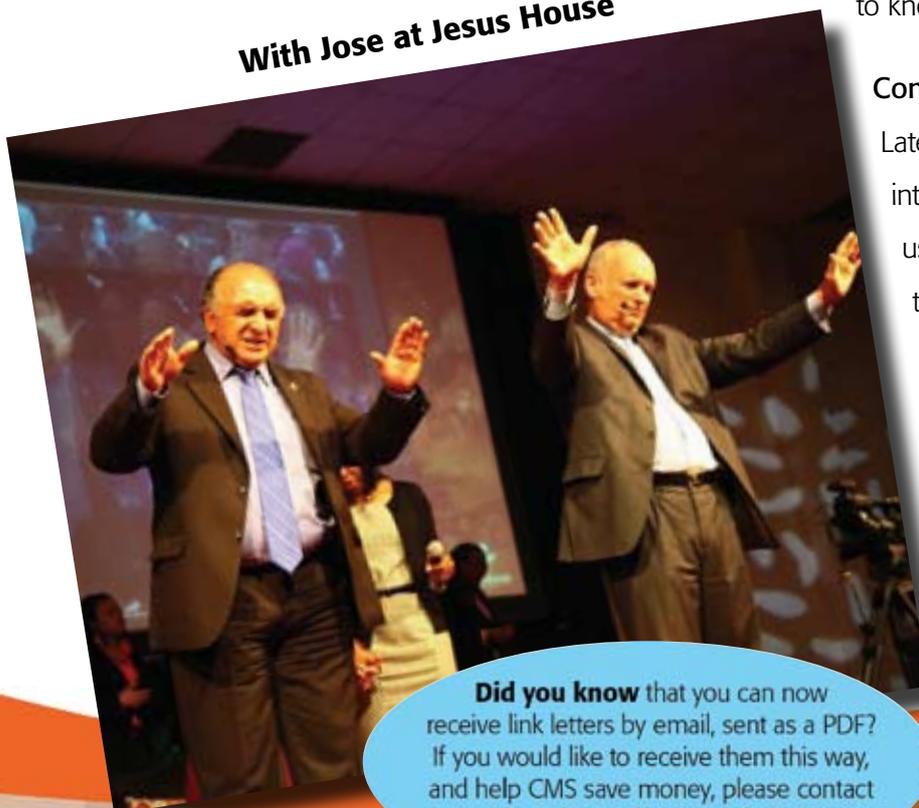
#### Arriving home...

After the intensive 34th Miner Tour across the UK and Ireland, José and Blanca arrived back in Chile to great public acclaim and multiple press releases being written about them.

#### Reaching thousands

We have never been before involved in such a tremendous tour. It began seconds after we touched down at Heathrow with no less than 15 BBC interviews being recorded that day, going out across various cities in Britain. The tour that followed, speaking to packed out crowds at HTB, Jesus House, Durham Cathedral, and in Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Oxford, Cheltenham, saw us deliver the gospel message to over 10,000

### With Jose at Jesus House



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### **Alf and Hilary Cooper** CMS mission partners **Chile**

people. Various pastors remarked that they hadn't seen such crowds since the 1960s.

#### The presence of God

Meticulously organised and administered by the kind CMS staff who blessed us in all things big and small (like buying telephone cards for us and giving us clothes when our luggage didn't arrive), the Tour was a wonderful blessing. As we spoke – and later made a challenge to salvation and healing – we sensed the tremendous presence of God upon the congregations. The venues were always packed and some hosts had to arrange follow on meetings. The greatest joy for us was when hundreds of hands went up all over Britain, indicating the desire to get to know the 34th Miner.

#### Continuing to reach others...

Later in Northern Ireland, SAMS arranged an intense few days. Friday Night Live challenged us all to mission in all its diversity. The highlight then came on Sunday at Shanklin Church, one of Northern Ireland's largest churches. They had to open balconies of the church which had not been opened in many years to fit everyone in.

**Iglesia Anglicana**  
**Casilla 50675 CC**  
**Santiago**  
**Chile**  
**acooper@iach.cl**



**At Holy Trinity Brompton Church, London**

The Rector challenged people to come forward after the message and placed a symbolic stone at the front of the church, and we prayed with many. We quickly realised that all over the UK and Northern Ireland, those who responded wanted more than a passing thrill, signing up immediately to an Alpha Course or a similar follow up. José and Blanca were thrilled, as are we, to know that the DVDs of our talks have continued to go out in their hundreds all over Britain, Northern Ireland and that the story of the miracle is continuing to attract much attention.

#### **Breakfast with the President**

We have now been invited to Rick Warren's Saddleback church and the Crystal Cathedral in the US, as well as a couple more Prayer Breakfasts. This was the result of our surprise visit to Washington. I was halfway through a Marriage Preparation before leaving Chile when we were received an invitation (an invitation that we could not refuse!) to the National Prayer Breakfast where President Obama would attend with his wife Michelle.



**Left: With Nicky Gumbel**

**Below: Being interviewed on stage**





### **With the Presidents of Chile and the USA**

José was able to take a photo with his hero Abraham Lincoln in the President's Walk, Hilton Hotel, minutes before moving onto the breakfast with the President. There we spoke of *"praying democracies"* at the bottom of the mine and received a big welcome for this concept. The Chilean Ambassador joined us and shared in the CBS TV broadcast to millions of viewers.

#### **Continuing on my own**

Back in the UK, I continued on my own, thinking that the crowds would now wane. However, to my surprise, churches came together and filled venues in surprising strength with similar results for the Kingdom.

#### **Returning home**

Hilary and I left the UK after the CMS High Leigh

Conference and went on a wonderful holiday; this prepared us for the return to Chile. The minute we arrived home, the miracles started up again. That very night we had to do an exorcism by telephone! Following this, almost daily in the Palace, at our church and in the latest Marriage Encounter course, we notice a very strong, heightened sense of God's powerful presence in meetings and miracles.

As I write, 17 couples have come to church after the last Marriage Encounter weekend. That is an all-time record response. Our church is packed to capacity and way beyond capacity in two of the three morning services and one in the evening.

#### **Bringing heaven to earth...**

The reason for so much blessing we believe is the chain of intercessory prayer. Just before we left the Lord gave us a vision of starting an all day and all night prayer chain, a kind of 24x365 prayer. We needed 168 people to cover the hours in a week but 300 showed up to the Launching Retreat. I am fully convinced that this chain will open the heavens and bring us through to new places of blessing and revival.

#### **At Jesus House**



## Meeting the President again

Speaking of President Obama, he and Michelle came to Chile a week ago and I was asked to stand in a hallway and greet him. The photo in this link letter is the envy of the entire Palace because no one else has a photo with **BOTH** presidents! I had just said to the two of them: *"We are praying that the Holy Spirit himself guide you in all the decisions you make."* God seemed to touch them and they asked that a photo be taken of the moment.

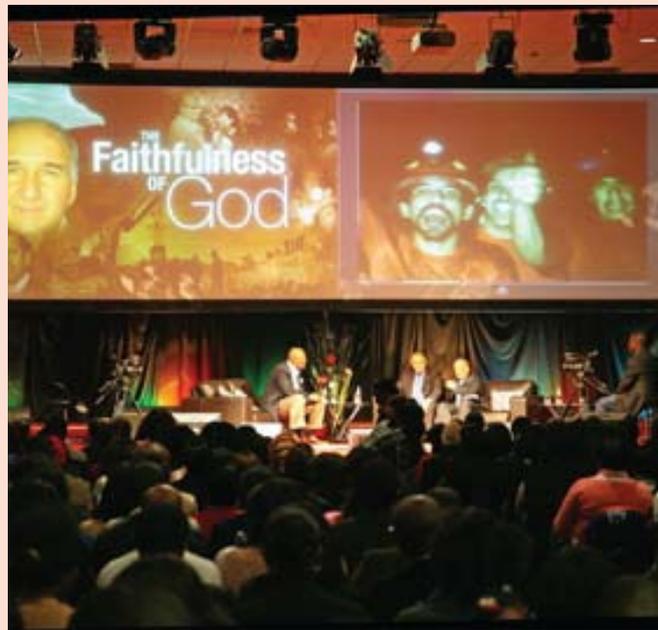
As I preached to my congregation today, this was a great encouragement to us to keep praying for our Presidents and leaders.

## The biggest news

Melanie (with whom I had a most superb father-daughter time, and who later travelled all over Europe on Easy Jet with a school friend) and Alan (her wonderful boyfriend who was such a Christian help to us in the moment of the earthquake) are engaged to be married! The date is set for 24 September and we couldn't be happier. In fact, the very day they announced their engagement I had been reflecting on the London Underground how Alan was the only man on earth I would give my only daughter to!

## Prayer request

Pray for us as we seek to be faithful to the Holy Spirit and give Him complete control of everything. We have found La Trinidad to have grown over the summer and the region developing well with great fellowship among the pastors.



**Top: At Jesus House**

**Bottom: Returning home...**

## Blessings and joy

Imagine our joy to be reunited with our Nico and Mariana and Ryan, Ara and Jahnn when we returned. Joy indeed!

## Love

*Alf and Hilary*



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  
Executive Director: The Rev Canon Tim Dakin