

Link Letter No.8 April 2013

Very dear praying friends,

Standing our ground

Our UK leave did us very much good, and we expressed our dear thanks for the incredible kindness of our British Christian brethren. We returned to Chile refreshed – and challenged to be more like you. As you enter a lovely UK spring, we enter a beautiful Chilean autumn.

We also saw how important it is for Christians not to cede ground to neo-atheists and to secularism and materialism, and to find ways to boldly live and proclaim the gospel – even if this is politically incorrect.



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.



La Trinidad (photo taken during one of its three services)

We were there for the debate on gay marriage, and while sympathising with the clearly difficult position of an assailed church, we applaud those who pray and hold true to Scripture's principles in an uncompromising way. If Christ rose from the dead at Easter,

then all He said and implied in Scripture is true and we must uphold such words, sensitively, wisely but also boldly.

So we returned to Chile to fight similar battles but with the clear advantage – that we should not squander in an election year – that the evangelical church here is big enough and loud

enough to see politicians calling in order to seek our vote. Please pray that we will be wise in how to faithfully recommend biblical principles, and not allow any lust of power to dominate the scenario.



Our street during the beautiful Chilean autumn...



Recording for our TV programme Hazte Cargo

A new season

March is the beginning for everything in Chile, especially for this very interesting year of elections. A recent private coffee with President Piñera showed me just how much is at stake if we are to remain a nation that hears the gospel (or not). He told me of some very moving moments during the miners' crisis, when he heard a clear voice saying to him: "*They are alive!*" I suggested that we film him saying this and capture the leadership he offered last year, and he kindly assented. Please pray!

A recent marriage encounter course brought many miracles of healing and restoration. A judge in the family courts came with all the papers prepared for a husband and wife to sign and then divorce amicably on the Monday. Two days before,

however, a miracle had occurred and the next day they were in love again, and so tore up the papers. Please pray that people like these – first generation Christians within our church – become active propagators of the cause and that our courts fill up with judges like the judge I mentioned, now our friend and ally!



Making a programme on transsexuals

Our region is in growth... two more churches are being born, Ciudad del Valle and Pirque. The good thing about planting churches is that they can last for generations (ask the British!) and any one of them could become a mega church or multiply many other churches.



Our little grandchildren

La Trinidad had seen a slight slump over the summer holiday but now is zinging again! We are emphasising the School of Bible and Mission (because one can never just study Scripture; one must go on doing mission as a result).

Our television programme, *Hazte Cargo*, has taken a leap forward in a new format outside the studio. We go on tops of buildings, onto the streets and visit old cafés, which provides the scenery and backdrop for our interviews.

Lastly to report, our little grandchildren are growing up and now attending pre, pre-school (as happens here). Pay for Nico and Cata as they receive a new sister, María, in June!



Our little grandchildren

We write this link letter at Easter, where all our doubts die! Hours in the perfume factory fill us with courage and desire to express this victorious kingdom... Join us in that place of world transforming prayer and power.

With our love,

Alf and Hilary

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