

**Dear friends and partners in mission,**

### **ISA-VIDEO**

I want to begin by explaining why this newsletter doesn't have any photos. The main reason is that we have been doing some videos that can better show you the life of our community.

If you have time to watch them, I hope you'll get to know our people and our story over the last 2 years.

#### **TESTIMONIES:**

What Have I learned in the last year?

<http://vimeo.com/43361341>

#### **ISA's BIRTHDAY:**

What has happened in the last year?

<http://vimeo.com/44688440>

### **A good beginning...**

It has been a very good first semester. In our last newsletter we told you that 2011 hadn't been an easy year. We had to deal with loads of difficult pastoral issues that demanded a lot of care, prayer and strength. Nonetheless, in January 2012 we spent some time focused in prayer, fasting and seeking His restoring grace. That helped us to see what the priorities would be for 2012. We felt that our joy came back and that the conviction that the gospel was everything we needed in pastoral ministry was established once again in our hearts. It was beautiful to be reminded that we our His children, that mission is all about making His Son known to the nations and that He is willing to use fragile vessels like us to do it.

### **Family Retreat**

It was one of the most special times in the short history of Iglesia Santiago Apóstol (ISA). This year 50 people came (20 more that last year) and the main message was "The cross-centered life". It was good to think about how are christian life depends on how we understand what Christ has done for us.

It was so encouraging to hear old friends saying: "For the first time I realized that I was obeying God out of fearing what people would say about me while I should do it from pure love...I have so much to learn....Give me more of this please!"

And it was also beautiful to see our kids and friends getting baptized. The Diocesan Bishop came to visit us during Resurrection Sunday and he helped us with those who wanted to get confirmed.

## **ISA-NOMAD**

One of the most exciting times of the year was in our perpetual travelling while looking for a place to meet on Sundays.

The truth is that the event that pushed us to begin this search wasn't so funny. The first Sunday in January, when everybody was invited to meet at AIEP University, they told us 2 hours before our service that we weren't allowed to use it again. So, unexpectedly, in 2 hours we had to move 30-40 people to our Bible College (CEP) which was available that morning and over the last 2 years has been a huge help to us in planting the church.

After a while, the pastoral team decided that CEP wasn't the best venue to meet and to invite people. So we kept moving around looking for a place. We met at the YMCA for a couple of Sundays.

The next option was ICTUS theater. The first Sunday was strange. We felt like we were in a professional venue and the sense of community was missing. But after a few weeks we got used to the space and were able to develop community anyway by changing a few parts of the service. We included different members of the congregation in various parts of the program and invited people to a coffee break after the service. Since we started meeting in ICTUS, the average attendance is 60 people (including kids).

We believe God has placed us in this place until (God's willing) we have our own building. It hasn't been easy to find a place. Downtown Santiago is expensive.

## **ISA-Disceplship**

Some more good news is that more and more people are becoming passionate about studying the Word of God in small groups. This semester a new group for women has begun meeting every other week and many men have asked us to start a new bible study for them after finishing an 18 session course in Biblical Manhood.

The first semester, we meditated on the book of Proverbs. People responded really well particularly the new christians who received from the word of God and an encompassing world view that provided guidance in important areas of life. It was also encouraging to hear that some people who weren't from our church were finding help in the messages available at our web page (<http://iglesiasantiago.cl/este-domingo/>).

Can you see why we say that 2012 has been a good year? Another piece of good news was the conversion of our friend Fresia. She had come to church a while ago because she wanted her husband (Jorge) to become a christian. When they heard the gospel, he got converted but she left us. We began praying for her and counseling Jorge on how to be a good husband for her. In May, Fresias's mother was diagnosed with cancer. This moved her to ask herself about her relationship with God and after somebody in her workplace prayed for her and challenged her in her relationship with Christ, she called me to tell me that she had given her life to our Lord Jesus. Since then she has been an enthusiastic believer. Practically every week Fresia brings new people to church and her joy for God in spite of suffering various trials is a tremendous encouragement to many of us. Glory to God for his amazing work!

## **ISA-Urban evangelism**

Another thing that we planned for 2012 was a monthly outreach in the neighborhood. The idea is simple. The last Wednesday of each month, one small group goes out with coffee and sandwiches. The idea is to get to know the people in the neighborhood and to have good conversations with them regarding their lives and our lives. Two women have come to ISA from those conversations and our people are also learning that they can share their faith in a friendly and normal way.

## **SEMILLERO-GIMNASIO**

One of our main goals since we came back from South Africa was to establish a Ministry Training System within the Anglican Diocese. This year we saw the fruit of this labor because the Bible College reached its highest number of new students, and most of them came from the Gimnasio Program.

But there is still a lot to do. The Gimnasio Team has established the goal of helping to raise 20 new pastors by 2020. Part of this is to keep encouraging local churches to keep doing the work of intentional discipleship towards pastoral ministry.

This year Gimnasio launched a new program called "Semillero" (which means "Seedbed") It is a one year program in which we aim to level the standard of leaders before sending them to a 2 year Training Program. In these six years we have come to realize that, even though we have many people that would be willing to go into a full time ministry training program, not many of them have the basic abilities for handling the Bible. Semillero aims to establish a foundation and after a year, we pray that God may raise people that know how to evangelize and to do basic discipleship one to one using the word of God with confidence. We are aware that this should be a task that the local church does for every one of its members, but Gimnasio's aim is to establish a model that could be replicated in the future by them.

## **MOU-CHILE**

This year has been a very quiet year for MOU. A year for evaluating, discussing and projecting the vision ahead. After the leaders retreat we had at the beginning of the year I realized that some of the local expressions of MOU were suffering from lack of sound leadership and it was affecting the reputation of the movements in the local churches. In order to clarify our theology and establish a good foundation, I decided to focus our efforts in the training of leaders who were committed to the vision.

This helped us in forming six groups of young people doing "winter missions" in different cities around our country. Last Saturday we had an evaluation of how things went and it was very encouraging to hear that some people received the gospel in the streets and today are being disciplined by local churches.

One of the projects we will be working at in this second semester is the creation of a Non-denominational Training Program for students in universities. This project would start in March 2013 and our prayer is that many students would learn how to evangelize and

disciple others with the word of God. If we are able to do this by His power, I think we could repeat this training model every year and in other cities. I think this could be the beginning of something new in Chile and it's much needed.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. If 2011 was a very chaotic year in terms of family routine, 2012 has been improving nicely. We may not be in the place we want to be, but we are learning how to organize the timings in a new context as a church planting project. Please pray that God may continue to guide us into good quality time as a family. That we may have love and patience in this second semester to keep disciplining our children who are growing very fast!
2. Please pray that God would provide a place for us to live for the upcoming years. We are living a bit far from the church plant and the house is becoming a bit small as the family grows. The prices are very high and there are only a few choices. God is faithful and He will find us a place, which will serve the purposes He wants us to accomplish as a family.
3. As we are praying for a house for our family, we are also praying for a house for the church. We would love to have a multi-purpose building, which could serve many different functions (from Sunday services to a place to feed the poor in the city, from small groups meeting rooms to a nice area to rest and grab a coffee with someone from the community) It is not easy to find something like this so we are praying for a miracle.
4. The last prayer request is for our leadership team. Next year most of our pastoral team will finish their work in ISA. Derek and Beth Brown will go back to Australia, Carlos and Max (Bible College Students) will move to other churches (as CEP asks them to do so) Rebecca Lipkowitz (from the USA) is the only one staying as a pastoral team leader who does amazing work among the women. As our pastoral team leaves we will also need to raise new small groups leaders. Let us pray that God would provide wise, mature and servant hearted leaders that would be willing to support and work hand to hand next year for the proclamation of the gospel in Santiago de Chile.