

Link Letter No.2 September 2011

Dear friends,

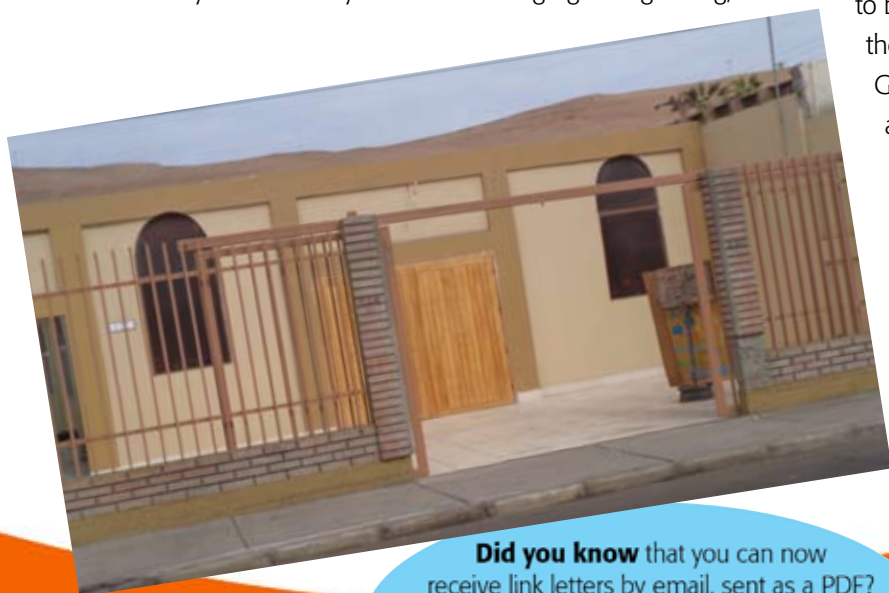
Crossing the Andes

The beginning of the year we set out on an adventure to cross the Andes and reach Argentina, a 17-hour bus trip. We set off not really knowing what to expect, just having faith in God that He had it all in control. It was the peak season for travelling and all tickets for buses were taken, so we went as far as we could in Chile and arrived at the border in a quaint little town called San Pedro de Atacama. This *pueblito* (small village) numbered around 2,000 people, but swells to over 15,000 during the holiday season. In this seemingly insignificant town there seems to have been a gathering of the nations, as many different countries were represented in this tiny oasis.

After spending two nights in this tourist hot spot, we were finally able to board a bus headed for Salta Argentina. We passed through the high altitudes of the magnificent Andes Ranges, with 5,000m being the highest point. Needless to say, the scenery was breathtaking. Having just snowed, this added to the mystic majesty of the unspoilt landscape on offer through the crossing. Arriving in Salta we were able to stay a few nights, do some sightseeing, relax and then finally return home to Chile.

Fresh optimism

2011 started with a lot of optimism for us in the Church. This year has been by far the best year with the congregation growing, *los*



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David and Gina Hucker
CMS mission partners
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hermanos (brothers and sisters in Christ) participating in ministry, the building 90 per cent finished and a general belief that God is molding and shaping the community of believers that gather in Arica under the title of Anglicans. We have baptised various people, married others and generally been encouraged by the way everything has been unfolding according to God's gracious plan.

Zvi and Gina and Nino and Carolina were two couples who recently entered the vows of Holy matrimony. The first couple was a pair of young university students who had a beautiful baby girl called Leah (she now aged one). The second couple was a retired pair who recently came to the Lord and, after many years of living together, decided to get their life right before God and marry. I had the privilege of performing both ceremonies. Both couples are now blissfully enjoying their new stage of life and pleasingly seeking more of the Lord for their lives.

Baptisms

The baptisms inside the church building itself were quite a challenge to say the least and not having anywhere to baptise presented a real challenge. All I knew is that these people wanted to be baptised and somehow God was going to provide the means. This is called a ram in the thicket faith, not knowing how God is going to provide but believing that He will. Suggestions for the baptism were to dunk them in a 40 gallon barrel or to spray them with a garden hose in the form of a cross. These options were not acceptable, although they were not suggested as real alternatives. In the end, I

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decided to buy a small swimming pool for the purpose of the baptism. The day before, it was difficult to find any pools as it was not the season to buy them. The one that we bought was returned a few weeks before for some unknown reason and the store was reluctant to sell it to us. Eventually after checking it, I was able to purchase it.

The second challenge was actually filling it, which was achieved over two days. Finally the day arrived and five people were baptised. One lady was hesitant before the baptism as to my skills of actually baptising, but after having reassured her that I had never lost anyone before under the water, she then seemed more at peace with the idea. Wouldn't you believe it though as when it was time for this lady to be baptised and she was in the water, she panicked. My first thought was to push her under so that she could be baptised and then rescue her. Well as it turned out, she explained that she had felt a heavy pressure on her chest and this is what caused her to panic. Once she was baptised and out of the water, this sensation disappeared. We shouldn't be surprised by the opposition that the enemy throws at us when we obediently follow our Lord.

Wesley has just recently celebrated his 20th birthday. He is currently studying at university, but because of the problems with education here in Chile all the students have taken over the university. This means that no classes can proceed and all staff and professors have been locked out of the campus by the students. This is a difficult situation that doesn't seem to have an end in sight. To protest in an interesting way, some of the students including Wesley, made a music video, which they promptly posted on Youtube. To date there have been some 13,000 hits, which I've been told make it the most watched video ever posted from Arica. You can find it by doing a search on Youtube with the following criteria: *UTA hard bass x la educacion*.

Caleb is in the final year of school. He just recently turned 17 and is unsure at this stage as to what or where he wants to study or go. The options for him are to do a DTS with YWAM in the Dominican Republic, go to Australia to study or to simply study here. His major test is in November and the results of this test will shed more light on what he'll be able to study. He really likes the idea of going to Australia but with the cost of education there, it would seem more logical for him to study here. However, it all depends on what the Lord has in store for him.

At the beginning of this year I completed an MA in English

teaching at the university where Wesley studies. I was really surprised and pleased by my guide professor who gave me a 7 for my thesis (7 in Chile is the highest grade). So after two and a half years of studying I received a degree. Not having been ordained in Chile, I was always thinking about what I would have to do for a living if ever I returned to Australia or some other country.

It rained in Arica recently, as it does every 10 years or so. The problem is that there are many houses without any roofs and the ceiling is actually the roof. As you can imagine this causes a lot of hardship for the people who have this type of roof, generally people who have limited finances. This is then compounded by the winter weather; although not cold by British standards, it is still quite chilly by Arican standards. A lot of people are presently suffering because of this climatic condition.

With our love,

David and Gina



A wedding we recently did for Zvi and Gina



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