

News from James Palmer in Chile, May 2008

I got the flat, after the rather protracted process of someone else having to sign the contract. Thank you for your prayers... it was sorted the same Thursday I emailed (I should have remembered to ask you to pray for them to tell me they had sorted it as I only found out on the Monday when I went to the church office, as they'd given me the impression it wasn't going to happen).

I'm writing in the midst of moving house, which is as much fun here as it is anywhere else (actually it's even more fun as you have to have DOCUMENTS to be able to move, which is always a monumental waste of time here). I have a van and some movers to take across my stuff. I have been taking books, clothes and other smaller things over for a few days so that I can make the actual move as quick as possible. I've moved too much recently (over the last 3 or 4 years) and it's even harder with furniture (this is the down side of owning things for the first time ever).

Anyway, my teaching still seems to be going well, and we have had some very interesting discussions as we try to spot parallels between the early church and the contemporary church. History is quite good that way, as you can get people to see how odd certain patterns of behaviour or belief are in a very different context and then point out that we do something very similar. We are almost at our half term point, which gives me a breather as I settle into the new flat.

I'm still enjoying my Spanish courses, and, oh, I read on the web site that my permanent residence has been granted, though they have not written to me yet. I'll have to go to sit in some dingy government office (this is something that is the same all over the world) to get the thing put into my passport, but that can wait for another week. I'm looking forward to being settled so that I can start to get my teeth into Roman Catholic theology. It's something that growing up in the UK where the RCC is practically irrelevant does not prepare you for, and I'm trying to find a way of focusing it and making sure that good intentions turn into reality. Doing Christianity in a culture which is so "religious" is quite hard, and it's the culture that my students will be working in so it's important that I learn so that I can teach them.

I move on Thursday 24 April (tomorrow) in the morning (10am EST, 15.00 English time), so do pray for that and for my packing! Today was rather depressing (a whole morning wasted on something I had been told would take 30 minutes).

Gracias

James