

Link Letter no. 5 March 2012

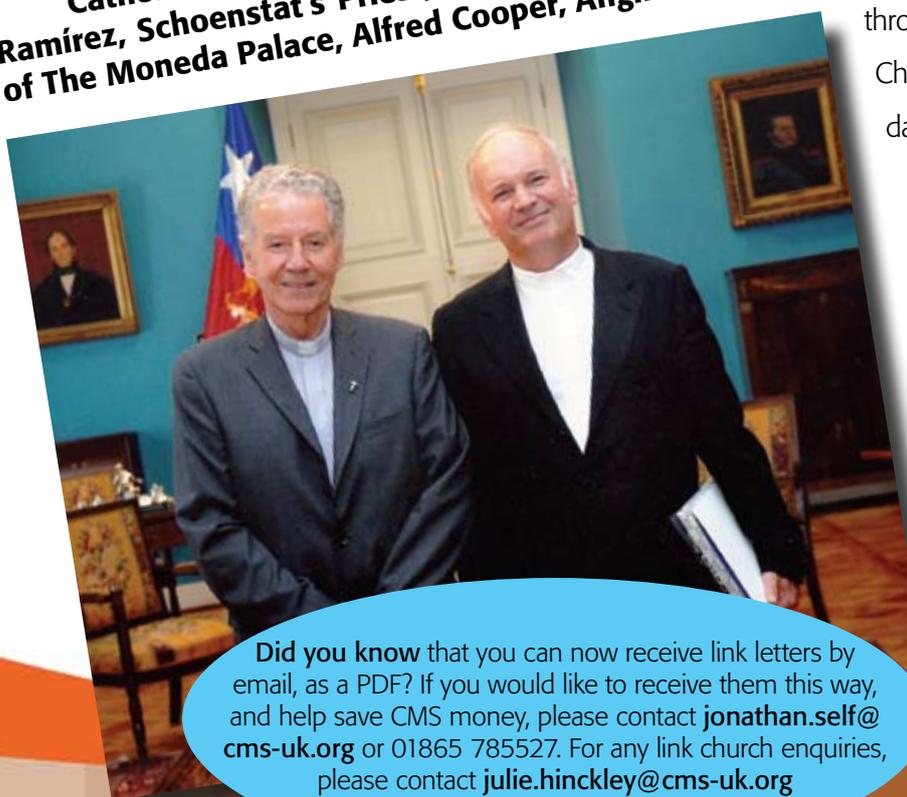
Dear friends,

Welcome to our world of Mission in Santiago de Chile, La Trinidad church, the Presidential Palace at La Moneda, the TV programme "Hazte Cargo", the Anglican Dioceses and the Metropolitan Region which I serve as Archdeacon. Although we are sending monthly Smileboxes (if you are not receiving these please contact Jonathan Self at CMS), four times a year we wish to give you a fuller insight into the mission you are part of here.

But first our beautiful family!

Queen Hilary and I have just had the best holiday ever. People said I was looking tired and haggard at the end of 2011 and it may be that God wanted to correct this

Catholic Chaplin of The Moneda Palace Luis Ramirez, Schoenstat's Priest, and Evangelical Chaplin of The Moneda Palace, Alfred Cooper, Anglican Pastor



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Alf and Hilary Cooper
CMS mission partners
Chile

wrong judgement (!) but at the last minute we received an invite to a cruise around the Caribbean. It was a complete rest, as was spending a few days in Lake Caburgua, at Arquenco – the family farm (where we lived during the earthquake in 2010).

So now rested and rejoicing, visiting the gym regularly and in good health, we resume the battle in the mission of Jesus. I say battle because anyone who is in mission knows the demonic darts of depression, doubt, fear and insecurity that the devil hurls at us every day. That's why 2-3 hours of prayer first thing is the place we secure the victory from with the battles ahead. In that secret place we enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit, who loves us, blesses us, teaches us and shows us the way through and how to win it in the power of Jesus Christ. Strengthened, we can move out into the day and week.

Mine looks a little like this...

Monday...

Is a day of planning and admin at church. The pastoral team (seven full time and four apprentice youth) meet, pray and plan together – admin and communications

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Catholic Chaplin of The Moneda Palace Luis Ramírez, Schoenstat's Priest, Sebastian Piñera, President of Chile, Evangelical Chaplin of The Moneda Palace Alfred Cooper, Anglican Pastor, and General Secretary of the Presidency Christian Larroulet

are the main goals of the day. Usually Monday night is leadership night when we pastors meet with the PCC and with the School of Servants, training lay leaders to lead and plant churches.

Tuesday...

At 7:30am I walk into the Presidential Palace, called La Moneda, and say "*Come, Holy Spirit*". We then hold a 30 minute intercession meeting in the chapel, which can get loud! Part of my mandate is to pray that Chile be closed to demonic

influence and opened to the Spirit of Christ and the gospel. This is what Chile's massive Pentecostal churches have been doing over the past 100 years. God honours His Word as 22 per cent of the Chilean population are born again.

Last week we had a private lunch with the President who very kindly and graciously listened to all I and the catholic Chaplain had to say and suggest. What a privilege! Nation shaping! Mind blowing!

Las Condes



Archdeacon's meeting with regional pastors





Las Condes

Wednesday...

I put on my Archdeacon's hat and meet with all the regional pastors from 18 Anglican churches in Santiago. Later, I make my way to Go Studios and film my TV programme called "*Hazte Cargo*" which means "take responsibility". It beams out to thousands of viewers challenging people to take responsibility both for the society in which we live and for their own lives. Pray that every programme manages to get across not just the good values of the Kingdom, but also the incredible news that there is a red carpet of salvation for all who seek it and are humble enough to realise they need it!

Thursday...

Is my day off. After going to the Grange School for an early

morning service, I usually breakfast with my daughter Melanie and her husband Alan (newly weds!) before hitting the gym and the golf course.

Friday...

Is a day of fasting and prayer when I like to shut myself away for the morning or if possible all day to seek God and prepare the Word. I say "*I like to*" because it is not easy with many pressures on to actually do it. All sorts of possibilities crop up from radio programmes to Diocesan affairs. It would seem that the devil tries to rob us of those times in direct proportion to the importance they hold for the advance of the Kingdom. So I say no to what I can in order to be there. Reading, consulting with the Lord, is there a better way to spend a Friday and be ready for the heavy weekend?

Saturday...

Is always full of seminars, marriage encounters, the evangelistic Cursillos course, men's, women's and children's encounters etc. This week for instance, we are holding a morning seminar on Intercession in order to set up a "*Tower of Intercession*" in our church all day Friday. If ever a Saturday shows up without such activity,

Alf giving his blessing to the children



you will find me sneaking off to the golf course! But don't tell anyone!

Sundays...

We have four services, full of God's wonderful presence and power. Usually Juan Luis or I preach and normally we all leave sensing that once again we have been in the Cloud with God and that He has spoken clearly to us. I am sure that is what church is – simply a real meeting with God, full of His love, His word, His anointing, His presence. He loves us so His presence is always healing and restoring, edifying and challenging.

Of course, sometimes it is uncomfortable when the Holy Spirit comes amongst us in ways that we don't invent and don't attempt to control, and when He speaks to us and rebukes us. However, the climate is always one of reasonable, thoughtful commitment to God, openness to His power and gifts, expectant in His presence, longing for His activity, His works among us. Conversions, healings and liberations take place spontaneously, sometimes rather shockingly (like when people manifest a demon or flop down under God's power) but usually in a spirit of love and biblical order.

People often say to me, *"I arrived in La Trinidad and was embraced in love, God's love and the love of the people"*. That seems to me to be as it should be! We feel like we have small shoes on as the premises burst with too many people – we are praying for a new place. The hunt is on and we have been in contact with the Ministry of National Assets, who say that they will help us. This is a very big one because we could fill a larger place very quickly, I know.

Recently we have had extraordinary opportunities to witness: lunch with the President, a Christmas Service in the Palace, prisons, encouraging all kinds of projects that

my evangelical brethren ask me to help with, hospitals, micro businesses and education initiatives amongst the poor; add to this TV and radio opportunities. We are facing a tough battle of working against legislation that favours gay marriage and abortion. Amazingly we are seeing results and so far we have no such laws accepted. Life is full of challenges and exciting!

Today I returned from the Anglican Bible College called Centre for Pastoral Training. I shared with the students the original vision I had long ago, when I used to pray and fast every Wednesday on a hill overlooking Santiago. The phrase which encapsulates all that the Holy Spirit has done since then is *"churches that develop and multiply without limits"*. Pray us on as this vision becomes ever more tangible!

All our love,

Alf and Hilary