

Link Letter no.7 December 2012

Dear friends,

We are on the other side of battles! When I promised the President that the united evangelical service in the Palace on 31 October would be in fact UNITED, I never realised how difficult it would be to bring together so many different (and often rival!) groups and factions within the church. But we stuck at it and through some storms, sure enough they all agreed to my terms eventually. The President preached and did a good job! I don't know if he knows he preached but everyone took his text "*Seek first the Kingdom of God*" as a sermon text!

La Trinidad church is bursting. This is really serious! What can we do..? Prices of land are too expensive here! Please pray urgently. We already have 4 services. What else can we do? We are planting out a new church in Pirque. That may help a little but not enough.. The "problem" is that there is



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.

such spiritual hunger around us that when we do our Cursillos, Marriage Encounters, and other ministries many respond and come to our church. TV programmes are bringing inquirers as well. You can see these programmes in www.la Trinidad.cl

Then our dear family, the first ministry and church, are prospering under God's care. Ryan is travelling all over Latin America for Jpal, a poverty action group that seeks to measure the true effects of social services on poverty. This tends to leave brave Mariana alone who never complains, with the two babies. She is studying at the same time, so proficiently that the authorities waived entrance requirements in her case.

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Top left: Mark, Ryan and Alf Top right: Ara, Hilary and Jahnn

Middle left: Mark and Dani Middle right: Alan and Melanie

Bottom left: Nico with Auntie Melanie Bottom right: The Little family - Ryan, Mariana, Cata and Nico



Top left and right: Queen of the living room and dining room, Cata, our latest grandchild

Middle left: Ahnn and Ara Middle right: Melanie and Cata

Bottom left: Preaching at the Presidential Palace Bottom right: 600 evangelical leaders gathering at the Presidential Palace

Jahnn and Ara are knocking on a familiar door, All Nations Christian College! Pray for them as they work on the application and get together the funds.

Melanie and Alan are a load of fun! They regularly travel around Chile enjoying their long lasting honeymoon. Alan was operated on both hips so successfully that Melanie wants to do the same!

Mark is struggling to finish his penultimate year at university. An extraordinary leader, musician and nice guy, he and Dani are being very responsible as they romance and explore the future.

Hilary is now almost a full time babysitter and loves it. Every day or so the two babies come smiling and playing, growing and developing all around our house. Life is transformed by them and certainly my pressured schedule is greatly calmed and enriched by the atmosphere in the home.

This December we are about to go on a short furlough, leaving for UK via Recife on 6 December. We have been asked to attend the Consecration of my great pal Miguel Uchoa as Bishop of Recife. There is much to celebrate and much ground to cover in that meeting of Chilean and Brazilian Anglicans. Then to the UK until the end of January where we expect to see many of you as we travel.

It is so good to know we are crucified with Christ! He continues to lead us in great joy and blessing!

A big Christmas hug!

Alfred and Hilary