

Santiago Update June-July 2008

news from the Emery family



Check out these high-altitude geysers from the Atacama Desert of northern Chile!
(more vacation photos in Family News below)

Our apologies for the lack of a report over the last few months. In addition to being very busy with travel, multiple retreats and campaign groups, we had some technical difficulties with our e-mail address book after updating our computer. At any rate, enjoy the belated news. We'll give you a few days to digest this issue before sending out our August-September edition which will have some great news about the leadership development in our church in Santiago!

Church News

Recent baptisms

To bring you up to date, following are the stories of your new brothers and sisters in Christ in Santiago, baptized during the past several months (the first two are a little older but we realized we had overlooked them in previous reports):

Cristián Rodríguez & Sandra Salazar, who were introduced to our church when they attended Marriage Encounter ministry, were baptized together last February in our teammates' swimming pool (remember, February is summer here!).



Samuel Espinoza was baptized April 20, the day of our church's Baby Dedication ceremony, shortly after he dedicated his son to the Lord.

Adela Cepeda, a professional caterer, has attended our church regularly for some time. She recently began a discipleship study with our teammate Penne Hatcher and was baptized in June.



Pamela Moroni and her husband, Claudio Zalaquett, also came to our church through the Marriage Encounter ministry. Although Claudio has been a follower of Christ for many years, his wife had been turned off by religion and says that Marriage Encounter was her “re-encounter” with God. She was baptized June 15.

Discipleship studies

As you may remember, about a year ago our team recommitted to discipleship—beginning with ourselves and extending into our ministries with our Chilean brothers and sisters. In his review of literature on the subject of discipleship, Scott ran across one book that has influenced our thinking and inspired us more than any other: Greg Ogden’s *Transforming Discipleship*. We highly recommend this book to you because of its sensible and practical approach to discipling others in dynamic groups of three or four. Based on concepts we gleaned from this book, we have kicked off two new discipleship groups within the past two months:

- **Scott’s group: Jorge, Julio & Rodrigo.** Every Thursday morning Scott rides a bus to a coffee shop for a Bible study with his three closest Chilean friends: Jorge Montecinos (long-time church member and father of Felipe, who as you may remember had a brain tumor removed a few months ago), Julio Benítez (architect of the new church building) and Rodrigo Olivares (he often leads our church in worship and coordinated the production of our praise team’s two *a cappella* cds). Currently this group is reading through the book of Mark.
- **Holly’s group: Claudia & Perla.** On Tuesday afternoons Holly meets with Claudia Valenzuela and Perla Anabalón, girls from our university youth group who were baptized within the last two years. This group is studying Paul’s letter to the Colossians.

In addition to these groups, Scott meets weekly with David Vera from the university group and plans to begin studying with another member of the group, Christian Rebolledo, and Sergio, a friend of Christian’s who frequently visits our church.

You may remember that as a couple we had been involved in discipleship of Christian & Diana (the newly married couple from our university group) with the help of Marriage Encounter supervisors Patricio and Alicia. This group, which previously met on Sunday mornings during Bible-class time, is on hold due to teaching commitments Holly and Diana have this quarter in children’s classes. We are scheduled to start up again in September.

Marriage Encounter

Our next Marriage Encounter retreat is scheduled for Sept. 5-7. We have been promoted to supervisors for this next encounter, a role we will share with our good friends Francisco and Dragana. We are enjoying the *Grupo de Apoyo* (work team) with whom we meet weekly in preparation for this coming retreat. The group shows great enthusiasm for service and includes one couple relatively new to our congregation, Claudio and Pamela (see baptisms above), who came to the church as a result of Marriage Encounter and who have shown great potential for leadership within this ministry.



Following each retreat we organize 4-week *grupos de crecimiento* (growth groups) to help build relationships among encounter couples and cement concepts taught during the weekend. We are leading one of these groups—formed after our previous encounter in May—on Sunday afternoons at the church building. With Bible class, church service, lunch/activity with the university group and now this growth group, our Sundays this month have been long (9 a.m. – about 7 p.m.)! By some miracle, Savannah and Haydn have maintained fairly good attitudes in spite of the merciless ministry schedules inflicted upon them by their parents. Let’s hear it for tough missionary kids!!

Family News

Desert wanderings

Northern Chile’s Atacama Desert, the driest in the world, was our family’s vacation destination during our kids’ recent winter break. We spent the first two weeks of June on a road trip exploring the beauty of the northern extreme of our adopted country. During our trip up Chile’s coastline, we explored several beaches on the way to our final inland destination, the tourist town of San Pedro de Atacama. This *pueblito* served as our home base from which we set out on tours to see geysers, hot springs, salt flats, high-altitude lakes and unforgettable rock formations and dunes at *Valle de la Luna* (Valley of the Moon) and *Valle de la Muerte* (Valley of Death—a strange vacation spot for a missionary family, don’t you think?). Now we feel that we truly know Chile—from one end to the other!

Vacation photo gallery





Holly enters the business world

Now that our youngest is in school Monday-Friday (Haydn goes half a day to Pre-K), Holly has found a couple of new ways to keep herself even busier and earn a little extra money. The first is private English tutoring, an idea that occurred to her when two friends approached her independently within the same week, asking her to teach them English. She now teaches these two women every Wednesday morning and also tutors one of Savannah's classmates on Wednesday afternoons.

In addition to her English classes, she has also begun some freelance journalism for a website initiated by church member Rodrigo Olivares (a member of Scott's discipleship group). Rod, a Chilean classical guitarist who grew up in New York, has launched a bilingual website called the [Arts Funnel](#) (still under construction but check it out if you like) with the goal of giving worldwide exposure to not-yet-discovered Chilean artists. So far Holly has interviewed both a harpist and a tenor and written short feature-style biographies (in both English and Spanish) on these artists for the website. With additional journalists being hired as the website expands, Holly's work will soon shift to primarily translation into English of the Spanish articles they generate. Having never considered the idea of using her journalism degree in Chile (apart from the development and translation of church materials, of course!), she is finding the work both challenging and enjoyable.

PLEASE NOTE: New destination for funds

Should you wish to contribute to our work, please note our new mailing address for mission funds:

Littleton Church of Christ
ATTN: Jan Griffin
6495 S. Colorado Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80121
Please put in the memo line: Emerys' *** fund – Santiago, Chile

(***please designate if they are to be used as working funds, kids' education funds or salary/discretionary funds or any other special purpose you prefer)

Blessings from Chile,
The Emery family