

Greetings, Littleton! Following is a short update on what has been going on in Santiago during the month or so since our last report:

July 4th celebration

On Sunday, July 4th, the church honored their gringo missionaries with an American Independence Day celebration, complete with a barbecue and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. As you can imagine, this meant quite a lot to us, as we never expected to be celebrating the 4th with our Chilean brethren!



Baptisms

Here are two great stories:

Alejandro Monsalves

Alejandro showed up as a visitor about three months ago, having seen our building (he lives nearby). On his second or third visit he filled out an attendance card, requesting a Bible study as well as information on a variety of our ministries and was subsequently contacted by church member Claudio Zalaquett, who met with him and learned his interesting story. Apparently at age 14 Alejandro was kicked out of the house by his alcoholic father and has lived on his own ever since. He is a university student and also works. As he explained to Claudio, his dream is to have a family someday, and he decided to seek out a church because it seemed to him the kind of place he might find good role models from whom to learn how to be a good husband and father. It's not every day that you run across a young man in his 20s who is mature enough to be actively seeking spiritual fathering to prepare him for his future! Alejandro studied with Claudio and was baptized just under a month ago, and already he has jumped into ministry and service to the church. To give one example, on Friday nights our group of seven couples meets to organize and prepare for the next Marriage Encounter. Four of the seven bring our kids with us, and for four straight weeks Alejandro has also come to the building and provided a "cooking workshop" for the kids; they've made pizzas, cookies, etc., and have been thoroughly entertained while we are busy working.

Elia Honorato

Elia, the woman who cuts Holly's hair, known to all simply as "Nanny," was baptized three weeks ago after studying the Bible with Holly and church member Isabel Villarroel. Just before our furlough Nanny had shared with Holly some questions and doubts she had on spiritual issues, so it was decided that when Holly returned they would get together and study. Holly invited Isabel, one of the women from her ladies' class, to join the study, and though Isabel started out as the "silent partner," by the end of

the 6-lesson series she was the one leading the study! She is also the one following up with Nanny in the form of a different set of lessons designed to guide a new Christian through his/her first 40 days. In addition to this follow-up study, we are trying to help Nanny feel welcome in our church and encourage her to be a part of the family.



Nanny is emotional as she confesses her faith in Christ



baptism by Francisco Lerma



Holly, Nanny & Isabel

Discipleship update

Holly's group, with Claudia and Susana, finished their last chapter of the discipleship curriculum they have been going through over the past year and have embarked on the next phase of their growing together. They have decided to do a study on prayer, which will involve reading through the New Testament with the goal of finding key verses and passages to study in greater depth as well as reading and discussing a book on prayer. They have invited another church member, Veronica Fonseca, to join the group and are hoping she decides to make this commitment, having declined a previous invitation to be part of a discipleship group.

Three of Scott's four groups have run into difficulties. A new group that he has been trying to begin with three men who have a lot of potential for leadership has stalled before it even got going. All three men have not shown themselves to be very committed to the group, having missed many meetings and not having completing their reading and study. Scott plans to '*rayar la cancha*'—literally 'stripe the field,' figuratively our equivalent of 'lay down the law' – with them this next week to see if that will inspire them to take their original commitment seriously. At the same time, two other groups he had going with young adult men have been hit-and-miss due to job changes with several of the group members that have made it very difficult to get the groups together. Be praying that Scott can get these groups

back on track or, if necessary, disband them and find some men who are ready for the commitment and sacrifice required to grow in Christ through discipleship.

Let's Start Talking!

Two consecutive LST teams have been with our church since early June and have been able to make contact and study the Bible in English with about 50 different people. As the second team prepares to depart, the challenging task of follow-up begins. The good news is that at least one young woman has already agreed to begin a more traditional, evangelistic Bible study and several others look like they might be open to doing so as well. A couple of young people from the classes have visited the youth group. However, there are many more who have yet to show interest in anything beyond practicing English. In order to continue to cultivate the relationships and exposure to God's word that might result in more of them taking interest in the Gospel, we will offer a Sunday morning English class on the life of Jesus and a Thursday evening 'English Café' where we will have conversations in English that touch on spiritual matters. Be praying that more of the seeds sown during LST will sprout with some additional watering during this follow-up.

Upcoming travels

In early August our family will travel to São Paulo, Brazil, for a conference called ElderLink. This conference is targeting Brazilian church leaders and missionaries, but when a few spots were left, the organizer of the conference, Brian Gibbs of Continent of Great Cities (the ministry that recruited and trained our team), extended the invitation to our team. The Perkins family is currently on furlough, but Jeff and Penne Hatcher and their two sons will be accompanying us. And because the trip coincides with our 15th wedding anniversary (August 12), we're making plans to stay in Brazil an extra few days and enjoy a short beach vacation near Rio de Janeiro, where we will also visit some missionary friends.

Last March, while attending a women's renewal called Come Before Winter (CBW) in Paraguay, Holly had the honor of being invited by CBW's director to join her in Mexico in October to help teach a seminar designed to equip Spanish-speaking women for ministry through the sharing of tools for in-depth Bible study. Holly was also encouraged to take a few Chilean women with her to the seminar if possible, and so far two women (from the five discipleship couples the team honored recently) have said yes and two more have been invited. Once participants arrive, all seminar expenses are paid by CBW, so airfare is the only hurdle, and for that reason Holly will be fundraising in the next few months to find sponsors to help our Chilean sisters get to the conference. We are excited about this opportunity to bless these sisters with a unique experience that will equip them for leadership of our women's ministry in the years to come!