



Serving Latin America

The Gomez Family

February 2010

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of *The Great Inquisition* here in Chile. Perhaps it is because school is out and so he needs the extra challenge or perhaps it is because he's four-years-old, or perhaps it is just part of who he is. Whatever the reason, it is impossible to complete any sentence without Jonathan asking what one or more of the words means. He isn't satisfied with simple answers! He wants details, about which he will then ask more questions! We really have to know our stuff and/or choose our words carefully so that we don't get in over our heads!

One of things we like about the Alpha program that we've been using at church (first in Spanish, now in English, and soon Alpha for Couples) is that it encourages people to ask questions! In fact, one of our congregants says that is what he appreciates most about our church. Rolando says, "I can talk about things here, important things, things that matter, that I can't talk about in other places. You accept me as I am, with all of my questions." Maybe we're just used to questions, but hopefully it is because our church is beginning to model Jesus' ministry. Remember how Nicodemus barraged him with questions in John Chapter 3?

Our ministry this past month has seen its fair share of questions as well. Keep reading to learn more about the Our Great Inquisition.

Making An Acquaintance

And asking all of the relevant questions

What relationship doesn't begin with a question and answer session? The Free Methodist Church in Chile is entering into a new relationship and so the questions are flying. As the Official Directors of the Northern District in Chile, we had the pleasure of traveling to Ovalle, Chile (about 4 hours north of Santiago) last weekend in order to start the conversation with congregants at the new *La Casa de Oracion* (The House of Prayer) Church with regard to their desire to join the denomination. As Directors for the District, our role is to help plant churches and/or work with already existing churches in the region both in terms of administrative and educational coordination. This mission district reaches from just north of Santiago to the Chile/Peru border.



What we found in Ovalle was a very poor church with a very real desire to spread the message of Christ in their area. It was touching to see how one congregant, a man with many physical and economic disabilities, sought out materials and built a room onto his home so that the church might have a place to meet. The same man encourages the pastor to regularly do street ministry and help him witness to family and friends in other parts of the city because he sees the people's need for Christ. We are excited to return and meet with them again in a few months, as we continue the

question and answer process.

Please join us in praying for The House of Prayer as they seek to reflect God's light in their area. Also pray for wisdom with regard to the advancement of the "formal" relationship with them.



Has It Already Been a Year?

Celebrating with *Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande*

They say time flies when you're having fun (and working hard). We've been doing both at *Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande*, so it was fun to actually sit down for a piece of cake!

If you've been receiving our newsletters, then you've been following the story. You may know that the first service at *Casa Grande* was held on Saturday evening, January 17, 2009 with 16 people (including the two pastoral families) in attendance. On Sunday, January 24 we celebrated our 1st anniversary with 35 people in attendance.



After lunch the church answered our questions as together we evaluated the first year of ministry. We asked, "How would you describe this church in one word?" They said, "Warm, friendly, empathetic, entertaining, family, joyful, good food," and more. We asked "What does CCGG need to improve?" They said, "Attendance, punctuality (here they were self-evaluating as many arrive 30 minute to 1 hour late), sound, and gardens." Finally we asked, "What would you like to see at our church this year?" The responded, "Good teaching, a worship team, more English programs, and more children's teachers (OK, maybe we submitted that last one)." Overall, participants have found a place to belong and understand that as they begin to take ownership, the church can only improve. Dra. Teresa, a medical doctor from Bolivia, has officially joined our pastoral team and will be moving into *Casa Grande* this month. In addition we are forming a Leadership Council with some of the church members.

Please be in prayer for the future growth of this church. We pray that it will become a healthy, self-supporting church that is committed to continuing Jesus' ministry in its local community!

(To see more pictures from the *Casa Grande* Birthday party, click on the picture below.)



So You've Got Questions Too?

As your missionaries to Latin America, we want you to know that we always welcome your questions! Want specifics about a specific project? Just ask.

Curious about something we've only touched upon? Just ask. Want to know what is going on in general? Just ask. Want to know how you can get involved? Just ask. Anything else? Please feel free to ask us.

As always, we are deeply grateful for your support and pray the Lord' blessing on you, in your local context. May the Lord fill your heart with appropriate questions and well timed answers, according to His plan for the expansion of His Kingdom!

In Him,
Ricardo, Beth, Juliana and Jonathan Gomez
Free Methodist World Missions

Eat Mexican, Help Raise a Roof in Chile

Anyone in the Kentucky area is cordially invited to a Roof Raising Dinner at Wilmore Free Methodist Church on **Wednesday, March 3**. Plan now to take your family and friends out for an authentic Mexican Meal prepared by Jose Buenrostro (of Casa de Jose's Restaurant on Main St. in Wilmore)! We hope to join the fun via video conference. All proceeds will be used to help re-roof *Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande*, a much needed project!

For more information contact the WFMC Church office at 859-858-3521.

We Should Plan?!?!?!?



Pastoral Training in the City

The January 23rd Leadership & Planning Seminar in Santiago was an eye-opener for many of our fellow pastors. They have truly lived from Sunday-

Sunday, never really planning for the future nor evaluating their successes or failures. They asked great questions of each of the five-speakers; on the Biblical Perspective of Planning, the Church's Historical Perspective of Planning, a Perspective of Where the Church in Chile Plans to Go, along with Practical Tools for Planning and Evaluation. Several went away

challenged. It was as if the pastors were waiting for permission to start evaluating their ministry in order to improve it. One asked, "Why didn't anyone tell us about this before?" Together they

began planning a similar but MANDATORY seminar in September for all pastors and their leadership teams. Pray for eternal rewards.

What Are We Up To?

Our Upcoming Calendar

Please be in prayer for the following activities...

Sundays

10:30 Alpha in English
12:00 Church/Sunday School

February

6 - Monthly Pastor's breakfast
7 - CCCG Church Picnic
13 - 2nd Annual Valentine's Dinner at CCCG
20 - Begin Alpha for Couples at CCCG (led by Ricardo & Beth). This will be a 7 session program.
27 - Children's Workers Seminar

March

1 - Seminary Extension Classes begin in Santiago. We are offering 4 courses during each trimester. Classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday night.
3 - Juliana's 1st day of 1st grade
Roof Raising Dinner at Wilmore Free Methodist
4 - Jonathan's 1st day of Pre-Kinder
6 - Monthly Pastor's breakfast
District Board Meeting
Community Wide Youth Service at *Santa Rosa FM Church*
13 - Pastors Wive's Breakfast
19 & 20 - Chile-wide Pastoral Retreat in Chillan
21 - Alpha in English ends.
6, 13, 26 - Alpha for Couples

Bonus Question



What is the definition of Insanity?

Ricardo posed this question at the recent Leadership Seminar. Albert Einstein's answer is, "Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Pray that we all learn from our own mistakes and that God grants us the creativity to try new things!

Bonus Picture



Summer Swimming

Both kids are learning to swim and making new friends in the process this summer!