



We Serve a Risen Savior! He's in Our World Today!

Dear Friends,

We hope this note finds you celebrating the fact that whether you are in Kansas or Washington, Kentucky or Texas, Chile or... wherever, Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins and He rose from the dead to bring us hope! Might all that we do, say and think be influenced by that very knowledge!

March was a very busy and exciting month, as you can see as you read the rest of this newsletter. Much of our time recently has been spent cleaning, painting, planning, training and preparing a space for local children to learn for themselves that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whomever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." We created a video to show you just what we've been up to. [Click here to view our new video report.](#)

A Real Reason to Celebrate!!!!



Since Chile is home to a high percentage of Catholics, most people want to attend some type of religious gathering during Holy Week (unfortunately it may be the only time they enter a church all year). The surprising thing to us is that we've had to actually explain WHY we are having an Easter Celebration this year.

Good Friday is important and we encourage people to attend Good Friday services. Our church, with our limited resources, has chosen to celebrate Easter because it is Jesus' resurrection that brings us hope and provides meaning to our faith! We have invited our church family, our friends and our neighbors to gather at 9 a.m. for a celebratory breakfast so that we can all share in the hope He gives us! This is a real reason to celebrate! Our breakfast party will include Empty Tomb rolls, a drama, singing and other family activities. Please be in prayer for our service on Easter Sunday Morning.

March Highlights

Ricardo has been teaching a class on Free Methodist Church History and Polity to 18 Santiago pastors and church leaders on Wednesday nights. One of the most exciting things is that 2 additional youth are auditing the course! (This is a 10 week course.) He also lead a pastoral retreat for 30 of the Free Methodist pastors throughout Chile last month.

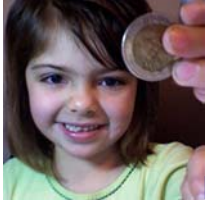


Our church, **Comunidad Cristiana Casa Grande** (Christian Community of the Big House) continues to do well. For the past 3 weeks we've had 22, 22 and 32 people in attendance respectively (we had 8 new people this past week). While Ricardo and Pastor Luis were in Chillan at the Pastor's retreat, Beth and Pastora Daisy led the worship service. It was very well received. (Sorry, we don't have pictures because the men had the camera's with them.)

We now have 8 children's worker volunteers (all under the leadership of fellow-missionary, Kay Stotts Godoy) and 5 Alpha Small Group leaders (with whom Ricardo has been working with 1 or 2 days a week to provide training) who will be leading our 15 week Alpha program which begins on April 18. (Kay and a retired Chilean teacher are developing the Alpha Curriculum for Children. For more information about Alpha, [please click here.](#)) Invitations are being handed out throughout the neighborhood. One night we went door to door with the invitations and homemade cookies - an activity we plan to repeat this week and next.



It was a huge blessing to be able to host several North Americans during the month of March. As you know, Chuck Fuller was here from Colorado for 3 weeks. His electrical expertise really helped brighten up Casa Grande. We also hosted Don and Debbie McCoon from California and Randy and Phyllis Hulse from Texas when they were passing through on vacation. We met all of these people because of their membership in Free Methodist Churches, reminding us once again of how nice it is to be part of, not only the Free Methodist family, but also the body of Christ - where each member is so important and so special! Come and visit - we always have room for more!



Family Follow-Up

Some of you have asked that we follow-up on specific items mentioned in other newsletters. Here is a brief update.

Jonathan's allergies: These continue to be a reality in his life but the reactions are less frequent because he knows what foods to avoid.

Juliana, Jonathan and Beth's Spanish:

Jonathan is fluent and Beth, while not quite fluent, preached her first Spanish sermon this month and was understood! She regularly teaches children's church. Juliana still needs Spanish practice but is at least able to communicate.

Our friend Olga:

She moved to Colombia in November. We miss her terribly. The latest report from her husband is that her health continues to deteriorate as a result of the brain tumor. Please keep her in your prayers.

The Kid's School:

They are really enjoying it and learning a lot! Both have been asking to have some school friends over to play! As of today, Ricardo is serving as a representative to the Parent Teacher Organization for Jonathan's class.

Biggy - Our Cat:

We had to replace Biggy with fish because he was causing a lot of trouble with the neighbors. The loss of her kitten is hardest on Juliana but we're sure he is happy in his new home.

Chilean Residency:

We have been granted permanent residency here in Chile, making it possible to open bank accounts and do other ordinary tasks in our new home country. YEAH!

Ricardo and Beth Gomez
Free Methodist World Missions
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