

Sept. 2021



Dear Friends, we are grateful for your love, kindness and care.

COVID EFFECT

After 15 months of high regulations from the Chilean government to fight against the fears of the pandemic, around July, our region finally started to loosen up its restrictions. Little by little, leaving the winter season and entering into the Spring. The economy, inflation, governmental stimulus helps, and general media paranoia have played in the slow process of going back to normality.

Last week, we were blessed to have the State curfew pushed to midnight from previously being at 10:00 pm; this was accomplished once 80% of the population got vaccinated with at least one shot. Our nation fears that possibly the DELTA variant could cause significant harm, but we are waiting to see what happens.

Another significant change in the northern regions of Chile is a massive influx of migrants seeking a better future coming from Venezuela. Hundreds of people are crossing the high mountains of the Andes (over 13.000 feet in altitude) in freezing temperatures. Many of them are in very vulnerable situations and are just sleeping next to the roads. They are running from the humanitarian crisis happening in Venezuela.

A NEW CHILEAN CONSTITUTION

As a result of significant protests in Chile in 2019, a few months ago, Chile had a special election to see the rewriting of the constitution, moving away from the one written during the time of the 1970-1980s dictatorship. A more socialist movement is growing among the national ideas that the new constitution will fix capitalism's inequalities through a new socialized form. 80% of Chileans voted in favor, while a majority of Christians voted against it.

TRANSITIONAL PROCESS

to help with what has psychologically happened with these mandatory lockdowns, we have decided as a church to aid the transition by emphasizing some options of personal meetings. Besides, many house visits, we started five small weekly groups of around ten people to introduce the basics of Christianity and our church's philosophy and direction. We are at our fourth session of 5 weeks of dealing with the basics, and we have seen a very positive outcome from it (unity being at its highest in the church).

We already have at least seven individuals that want to get baptized, which we will follow through with when we finish these courses.

We began our Sunday evening in-person services during August while remaining online during the morning services for those who still were not comfortable meeting in enclosed areas. Once we reached September, we made the move to go entirely in-person with the children's church and nursery fully functioning. Our youth ministry will also transition to in-person meetings at the end of the month.

Between the Sunday services, the weekly small group studies, the youth, children's ministry, and next week's church outing, we have around 75% of the church family participating in person. We will continue to encourage the remaining 25% to reunite in our services as time progress.

We wanted to say thank you personally for your love, care, and prayers!

Sincerely Dustin and Carla Reinhardt

Your missionaries to Chile