



(Alto Hospicio Church Picture with Pastor Pollock)

Alto Hospicio Church

The service had ended, and choir practice too; all had left for home but us. We heard someone knocking at the front door of the church. Opening the door, we found an elderly widow. Though it was 11:00, she had seen that the church lights were still on, and her need was so great she had come to ask for help. My wife went to prepare a bag with some basic groceries for her and her grandchildren. As she thanked us for the service, she asked about eternity. She is battling uterine cancer and wanted to have the assurance of salvation. With tears in her eyes, she accepted Christ as her Savior.

In June, I had a very challenging funeral. Julio, the 20+-year-old son of one of our church ladies, was murdered by drug traffickers. Along with the family were other drug traffickers, criminals, and friends, all weeping over the loss of this young man's life; over 300 attended the funeral. I gave them a clear presentation of the gospel.

Because of the 2 ½ years of fears, restrictions, and opposition to church ministries due to COVID, the church lost about 50% of the attendees. Some families moved away; some just got cold spiritually. We have been able to restart some special ministries and programs. We had a puppet program for the children's church on Sunday mornings for outreach. We offered instrumental lessons and now have begun choir rehearsals and the practices for the children's musical for Christmas. We also had our first church outing since the beginning of the pandemic celebrating Chile's Independence Day. We are now close to 80% of our previous attendance, with God blessing us with some new families. We are happy to have at least four people scheduled for baptism in November, Michelle, Cynthia, Karian, and her daughter Antonella.

We are working with Guillermo and his wife to become the church's pastor in Alto Hospicio. He comes from the church in Iquique and has been studying at the Bible institute. He has preached the Sunday morning message for the last couple of weeks. He and his wife have an excellent servant attitude and a passion for ministry.



(Puppet ministry)



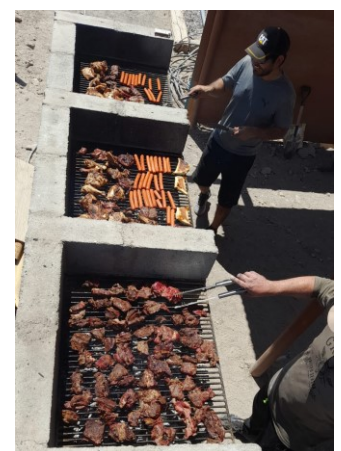
(Puppet ministry)



(Instrument Class Outreach)



(Instrument Class Outreach)



(Church "asado" for independence day)



(First Bible Study meeting in Pica)

Iquique Church

I have been covering the Iquique and Alto Hospicio churches for the last three weeks while my dad is on a short trip back to the US. The church in Iquique is thriving. Last Sunday, a young teenager named Florencia came for the first time; a classmate had invited her to the youth meetings. After the service, she wanted to get saved; I had the privilege of leading her to the Lord.

Pastor Tim Pollock from Lodi, California, visited our work three weeks ago. Besides visiting and preaching in the two churches, He led a seminar on evangelism, discipleship, and church ministry for over 20 church leaders.

The new work led by Pastor Abner is also doing very well. He had a good start with the 30 workers and members from the Iquique and Alto Hospicio churches. Seeing this new work growing spiritually and in number is a joy.

New Bible studies in La Huayca and Pica

With the visit of Pastor Pollock, we launched two new works. Pica is a town that grew up around a desert oasis; La Huayca is a growing community with many new properties being subdivided and developed.

They are both inland from Iquique, about 2 hours. Neither community have a solid biblical church. We have been developing contacts in these two towns, and the Lord led us to start now. At our second meeting in Pica, Bianca, a psychologist, and her two teen daughters, Rocio and Martina, accepted Christ at the end of our Bible study.

Alberto and Soledad, faithful Christians from the Iquique church, have felt God's calling to help with the new work in La Huayca.

La Huayca Camp

Summer is just around the corner in South America. We are planning three camps for five cooperating churches. Last summer's camp didn't go as we had planned. Of the 50 teens that signed up for camp, only 15 ended up going.

The Omni strain of COVID had hit us with a vengeance. During camp, Carla and I spent the next two weeks in quarantine recovering from Covid. Pray for our camps this summer. We are glad to have finished our first cabin and are currently building a house-church. We also need to plant our 60 trees. Because the whole area is a dried salt bed, each tree requires a hole to be dug that is a cubic yard and filled with new healthy dirt.

We also are planning and praying that in the near future, we will be able to install a small lake. That will require raising special funds, about \$10,000.



(Leadership Conference)



(First meeting in La Huayca)



(Construction House-Church Camp)



(Alberto and Soledad)



(family picture)