

# Greetings from Chile

## We're Moving!

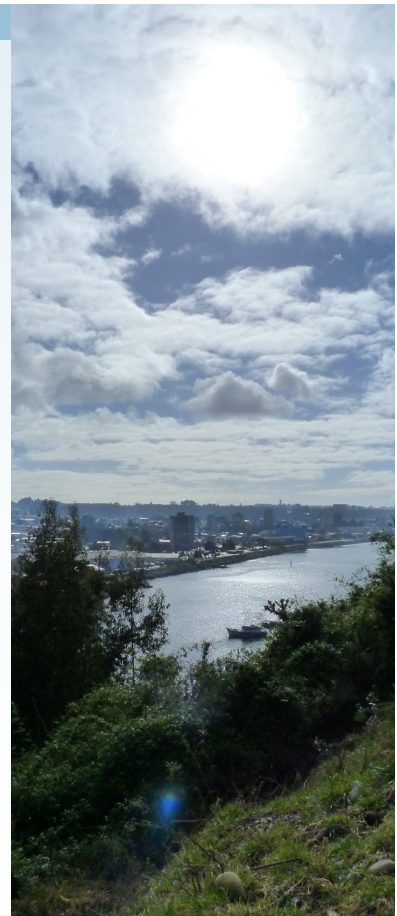
We've got so much news to tell you, but topmost on our minds is that we have decided to change houses. As nice as our apartment was, we became more and more convinced that we wanted a place with a little more space. We wanted to be able to welcome more people into our home and have a bit more space for church activities. We began looking about a year ago, checking out various leads. We found that most places were either too pricey or wouldn't work with foreigners (we require special paperwork).

At the beginning of October, a house came up on one of the websites Mike frequently checks. When we went to see it, the agent told us she had worked with foreigners in the past and would be able to do so now. Within a week, we had signed the rental agreement and got to work. Read more about our experience on page 4 of this newsletter.

## (and we need a car)

We've been considering buying a car for a couple of years now, but hadn't had quite enough incentive to buy it. The initial costs can be steep, and with public transportation so readily available and more affordable (at the time), we decided against it.

Then the price of public transportation went up. Mike also began teaching classes farther away from our home. And now we have moved to place where there is less public transportation than that available near our apartment. The time has come to get a car. Read more about this on page 4 of this newsletter.



### Inside this issue

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Tabi goes to Ecuador.....           | 2 |
| Medical missions trip to Pijal..... | 2 |
| September 18th.....                 | 3 |
| September 11th.....                 | 3 |
| Our new house .....                 | 4 |
| Prayers and gratitudes .....        | 5 |

### News

- We are moving!
- We have a new radio ministry.
- Mike is still teaching classes.
- Tabi is still translating documents for her theology blog.



## Tabi goes to Ecuador

In January of 2013, Tabi's mother (Lisa) moved to Ecuador to work with a group named Fedice. Their main focus is helping the indigenous poor start up businesses by providing low-interest loans for them.

In August, Tabi flew up to visit her mother. While there, she also participated as an interpreter for a medical missions team (read more below).

Her niece, Perla, also flew down from Mexico to visit and participate

as a second interpreter for the medical missions team.

Tabi spent the rest of her time there enjoying her time with her mother. She is very proud of Lisa's 40+ years of missionary service, and enjoys now sharing similar experiences.

P.S. She also tasted a traditional Ecuadorian delicacy: guinea pig. She found it delicious. For photos of this and more, visit her Facebook page and find her "Ecuador" album.

*"There were big smiles on their faces, and grateful hearts . . . many wanted to shake all our hands in gratitude."*

*Lisa Renz*

### About Ecuador

**Capital:** Quito

**Official languages:** Spanish

**Recognized languages:** Quechua, Shuar, and others

**Population:** 15, 223,680 (2011 estimate)

**Currency:** United States Dollar

**Ethnic Groups:**

Mestizo: 71.9%

Montubio: 7.4%

Afroecuadorian: 7.2%

Amerindian: 7.0%

White: 6.1%

Others: 0.4%

[www.eluniverso.com/2011/09/02/1/1356/poblacion-pais-joven-mestiza-dice-censo-inec.html](http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/09/02/1/1356/poblacion-pais-joven-mestiza-dice-censo-inec.html)

## Medical Missions Trip for Pijal

Many elements came together for this story to happen, and at the crux of it all: a small organization called Fedice. The core team at Fedice, with Blanca Puma as the main organizer, sending out emails and coordinating all the details. Several volunteers associated with Fedice: among them, Lisa (a long-time missionary in Mexico), Glenn and Marilyn (helping with technical support and the much needed fill-in-whenever-you-need-me, respectively), and Isabelle (student from Germany functioning as interpreter this time around). Two interpreters flown in from Mexico and Chile (Tabi's niece, Perla, and Tabi herself). And a large team from Plano, Texas, including a staff of nurses, an RN, several opticians and eyeglass technicians, and a few teenagers and young adults to help out with a VBS.

They all went out to Pijal, a town sequestered up in the mountains, to see the places they'd be setting up shop and to meet the townspeople. They were a simple people, most of them farmers. Many of the women, besides helping out with the work in the fields, also took care of their homes, their children, and embroidered beautiful blouses to sell later. The next day, when the team went in, they set up two different clinics: an eye clinic and a medical clinic. While the eye clinic moved around from day to day, the medical clinic stayed in one place. Tabi worked as an interpreter for the medical clinic all three days. She was amazed and humbled to see hardworking men and women come, asking only for something that would soothe their pain so that they could work some more, because they loved their work so much. Sometimes, the translation became difficult, because a patient would come in speaking Quechua, and no Spanish. They would have to find another patient who could speak both Quechua and Spanish in order to do a three-way translation.

Tabi returned from the trip feeling happy and blessed. Happy to have been of service to a good work, and blessed to have met such wonderful people.



*A boy dancing the “cueca,” one of Chile’s traditional dances.*

## September 18th

Ask what’s going on in Chile around the 18th of September, and most will tell you that they’re celebrating their independence. A few more academic (and smart-aleck) people will respond, “Actually, we celebrate the first meeting of the government. We didn’t even want independence at that point.” Which would be true. But, at 200 years of celebrating its freedom, no else really cares. The important thing is to have the meat ready for the grill, because you can’t celebrate September without it.

They take several days to celebrate the occasion, often getting time off of work to go outside of Santiago to visit family. By law, the day of the 18th, all businesses are to close. This is a serious celebration, folks, and requires some serious celebration time.

Many “fondas” or community fairs set up during these days to provide entertainment and food for anyone willing to brave the crowds. Their prices are, for the most part, moderate and affordable. “But Tabi,” I hear you say, “didn’t you just say that there’s a law that closes down all businesses?” Ah, yes. But there’s a loophole for everything, and this one is a particularly delectable loophole.

Our church celebrated the 18th as well. We had our Sunday morning service, throwing in some songs played in the style of traditional music. Then afterwards, we had a big lunch, complete with generous portions of grilled meat.

## September 11th

On September 11th of 1973, Augusto Pinochet led a coup against the president, Salvador Allende. He took over, becoming the country’s dictator for 16 years.

The effect he had on the country and the decisions he made during his dictatorship are hotly and emotionally debated. Some view him as the savior of the country, while others utterly demonize him. There seems to be little, if any, middle ground in opinions and feelings regarding him.

Every September 11th, any hard feelings over the 16-year dictatorship surface once again and there are marches urging people to never forget.

We have been told that each year, the activities during this evening and night have become more and more violent. This year, 2013, was the 40th anniversary of the “golpe.” The riots and violence were awful.

We hope that next year, perhaps, things will not be as bad as this year. We pray each year during this date for Chile, as well as for the United States. We pray that the memories of that day for each country will never be forgotten, but also that time will heal the wounds, and not be poisoned by bitterness.

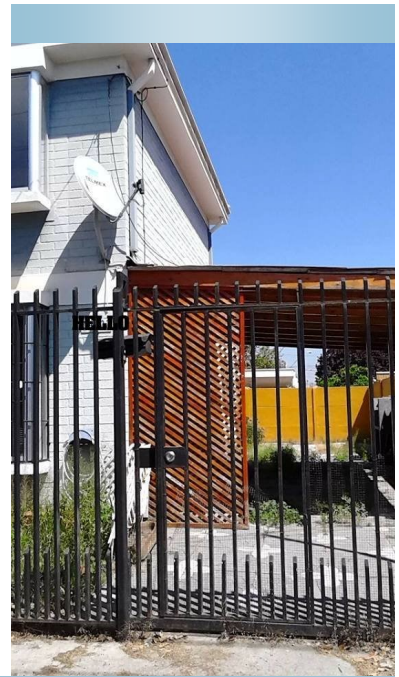


## A new house!

Towards the beginning of October, we went out to look at a house that came up online. We had had trouble in the past, because most agencies don't work with foreigners. We require a special procedure, because we don't have the usual requested documentation. In addition to this, the rental market changed — fewer houses available, and much higher prices. Nevertheless, we found a house for rent at an affordable price.

When we went to see it, the agent explained that the price was lower than others because the house had been abandoned for a year, and would require a good bit of work to get back into nice condition. Upon looking around at the place, we decided that it would be worthwhile and gave her our number. A few days later, we were signing the rental papers, and we got the keys to the new place.

This house has several advantages: more space, a bigger kitchen, a yard, and even a grill! The neighborhood has all kinds of stores and services, and there's a large mall within walking distance. The houses' one distinct disadvantage is that it is farther away from public transportation than our apartment was. It takes us at least 20 minutes of walking to reach the train or city bus system. While there is other transportation closer to us, it only takes us straight downtown, instead of to most of the places we need to go.



*“We’re so glad there’s someone in that house now. It was abandoned for a long time.”*

### *Our new neighbors*

We have, for quite a while, been considering buying a car. Up until now, our easy access to public transportation made the need for a car a little less urgent. However, several factors came together to urge us to get a car now.

- 1) Mike's classes have been getting farther and farther away. It takes us two hours on public transportation to get to one of them. One of his students drives us back from that one, and it only takes about 40 minutes. As much as we appreciate the rides, Mike would like to be able to arrive and leave on his own.
- 2) Our ministries have been growing. In addition to Mike giving several classes, we now are both participating in a radio ministry. Fortunately, this ministry is in the same direction as one of the classes (and on the same day), so we only make one two-hour trip out. Still, a car would make that trip much easier.
- 3) Cars have become common in Santiago. When Mike came to Chile in 2003, cars were rare, especially in poorer areas. Now, an increasing number of people are buying cars.

- 4) Our new house is not within easy access of the city's public transportation system. Our trips into town would take even longer now, if we wanted to pay the same price as before. If we wanted something as fast as before, we would need to pay more.

So while we clean up our new place, clean up our old place, pack, and move, we're also trying to keep up with our ministries and friendships. In the end, these are more valuable than wherever we decide to live, or whatever we decide to buy. We always hope that whatever new blessing we acquire will be used to bless others, as well.

Our friends, family, and supporters are, of course, welcome to come visit us. We'd love to show you around so that you can see the beautiful land that is Chile, and meet the beautiful people that inhabit it.

We wish the greatest of blessings for all of you. We know that we are continually and generously blessed in our own lives, and wish these kinds of blessings also for you.



### Cornerstone Chilean Mission

Our ministries are designed to benefit the Christian Churches in Chile. We are informed in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God “desires that all men be saved to come to the knowledge of the truth.” The work of the church is thus two-fold. Part of the work is aimed at evangelism of the lost. The other part of the Church’s work is with its own members. The body must be edified and educated.

## Prayers and gratitudes

- \* We are, of course, grateful for our new house.
- \* We are grateful for Mike’s growing ministries, as well as for our new ministries that have come to us.
- \* We ask that you pray that we will be able to find a good car that will be up to the challenge of the Lord’s work.
- \* We ask that you pray for our ministries— that we will be strong and constant.

### Cornerstone Chilean Mission

Our ministries are designed to benefit the Christian Churches in Chile. We are informed in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God “desires that all men be saved to come to the knowledge of the truth.” The work of the church is thus twofold. Part of the work is aimed at evangelism of the lost. The other part of the Church’s work is with its own members. The body must be edified and educated.