

## **HELP NEEDED: International Conference on Missions**

We preface this letter with a special request to our supporters. As some of you may know, the International Conference on Missions will be happening the 14-17 of November, in Kansas City. We get a booth there every year. This year we have hit a few snags. All but one of our representative exhibitors have run into issues at home and will be unable to attend. Mike's mother, Rose, will be going alone. And of course, this is not at all what we want for her.

So we have two options—

- 1) Ask any supporters in the surrounding area, or who can make the trip . . . would you be willing to go to the ICOM to help Rose set up and watch the booth? We know it's last minute, but we really want Rose to have company, because watching the booth is a lot of work.
- 2) Alternately, we could ask for a special offering to see if we can fly Tabi and the kids up for a few weeks, to help out. This is a more difficult option, because our mission cannot, at the moment afford to pay for it. As some of you know from previous letters, our mission has been running a deficit for a couple years. Any large additional expense must come from outside of the account.  
\*There is a section further down in the newsletter that discusses this further. \*

So we submit this rather urgent request, and these two solutions. We leave it to our supporters to consider them and decide. We would prefer the first, of course, because it is easier. If you decide to contribute toward either one, please send us an email ([our.boycemail@gmail.com](mailto:our.boycemail@gmail.com)) or a message through Facebook (Cornerstone Chilean Mission).

### **Se cuenta que una vez . . . (once upon a time) . . . \*The story, from our point of view\***

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, we took a trip south, to Osorno and Calbuco, to do a seminar. The day we left, a rather clever (albeit brash) evasion protest of yet another hike in public transport prices was beginning to get a little rough, but we thought everything would eventually calm back down, as it so often does. Instead, the turmoil escalated. The Osorno-based family that opened their home to us assured us no such thing would happen in their city.

The next day we set out toward Calbuco, a small island just off the coast, connected to the mainland by a bridge. We learned, on our way there, that the bridge had been taken over the night before. They expected more complications later that day, as well. They asked Mike if he could cut down his 5-hour seminar to 2 hours, so that they could have lunch and let the church members go early. He agreed.

We received a warm welcome. Plenty of attendees, and a very special lunch—curanto. The members themselves had gone out that morning to collect the seafood and had arrived early that morning to begin preparing the lunch. It was a lovely time. Everyone was attentive, all through the two hours. Lydia and Caleb had a blast playing with the other kids. We even had a Haitian couple come in, because at some point, someone had mentioned to them there would be a seminar. All was peaceful when we left. We heard later that further protests in the area remained peaceful.

We were scheduled to leave on Monday afternoon, but much to the surprise of our host family, the city called a State of Emergency and imposed a curfew. We received emails that our flights had been cancelled, but were unable to reschedule, because the call line was collapsed. Our host family welcomed us to stay another night.

By the next day, we had managed to reschedule Mike's flight, but not Tabi's or the kids. We went to the airport to drop Mike off and asked if they could try again to reschedule us. The agent did some agent magic and managed to get us all on the flight together.

We arrived back to home to a mostly peaceful neighborhood. We were told the first night of protests got complicated, but from there on out, the people gathered for (mostly) peaceful protests. They have been there every night so far. Some neighbors taking turns guarding the gates, and others protesting. Tabi took coffee and bread out a few nights, to collaborate with the food for the people taking turns keeping their community safe.

### **More about the protests--**

As we have indicated on our Facebook page, Chile is going through a bit of a crisis. Protests that began a week and a half ago have grown and become violent in some cases. Common complaints in the protests are related to low wages and pensions, high cost of living, political corruption and capitalism.

Along with peaceful protests, well over 300 supermarkets were looted, the majority of the metro (subway) was damaged (including bombings which destroyed entire stations). A state of emergency was declared, which allowed the president to deploy military to the street to re-establish peace and order. Government curfews were imposed for about a week.

Things are calmer now, but still tense. Supermarkets are still closed, as are malls. There are still daily protests, sometimes violent.

We have not been in any danger and have cancelled most of our activities, both for our safety and that of the members.

### **Prayer requests--**

Please be in prayer for peace and order so we can resume normal ministry.

Please be in prayer for the future of the country, as people and governments make bad decisions under stress and fear

Please be in prayer for our church family and friends who live in more dangerous areas.

Please be in prayer for wisdom in our words and deeds in the midst of this crisis.

### **Taste of Chile—**

Because it was mentioned above as part of our trip to Osorno and Calbuco, this newsletter's Taste of Chile section will talk about *curanto*. It is, basically, a Chilean version of "surf n' turf". The main ingredients are various shellfish (mussels, clams), beef, smoked pork, and chicken. There are two types of potato patties that accompany this dish—the chapalele (a more breadlike texture) and the milcao (more hashbrown texture). There are several methods for cooking curanto. It can be cooked "en hoyo" (in a hole) or "en olla" (in a pot). Northern variations of this dish also cook them in large disk-shaped pots and call it "discada".

When cooking it "en hoyo" or using methods to approximate this experience (as they did in Calbuco), you take the giant leaves of the *nalca* plant and create layers of leaves, meats, and patties. Everything is then covered up and steamed. When cooking it "en olla" or as a "discada", the ingredients are all

simmered together, letting all the juices blend. Sometimes, they will take these juices and serve them as a hot drink.

*Curanto* is not an amateur foodie kind of food, but if you like seafood and meat, it's delicious.

### **Running a Deficit—**

Talking money isn't usually fun, especially when the topic is a lack of funds. However, we will talk about it, because it needs talked about.

Before going further, we assure you that we have every intention of remaining in Chile. We came planning to make our lives here, and that is still what we hope for our family. If we must, we have decided to get jobs, in order to rely less on mission support. But jobs take time out of our already full-time work as missionaries, and so we would like to continue to dedicate our time to missions, rather than other work.

If you feel the desire to support our mission, there are several ways to do this. You can send a check to our mission board at Cornerstone Christian Church in Alliance.

Or you can go to our website or Facebook page and click on the donate button. This will take you to a page where you can donate online. You can also set up regular payments this way.

### **Thank you—**

We thank you all for the support you are already giving. We are grateful for anything and everything that comes in. We know that you work hard for your money and feel very blessed to know that you consider our mission worthwhile.

We thank you, too, for all the prayers you have raised up on our behalf. We know that many of our ministries would not have advanced as well as they did, if we were not full backed up with a net of prayer.

We also thank you for staying in touch with us throughout the years. We love hearing from you, and we love that you want to hear from us.

We pray the Lord blesses you richly.

Blessings,

Mike, Tabi, Lydia and Caleb