

BEST NEWS

July/August 2021

Dearest Partners,

Feelings of frustration, and insecurity have caused many to ask questions of God, like: "When?", "Why?", and "What now?". Maybe you have gone through some of these questions during this strange and difficult time of world-wide pandemic. We believe strongly that God is in control, teaching, guiding, and maturing us even in our "wilderness" times of uncertainty and difficulty.

Chile is still closed to non-citizens. As of today, it is listed with the U.S. Dept. of State as a "Level 4 Red Travel Notice Do not travel to **Chile** due to COVID-19 and civil unrest." We will not be able to apply for resident visas for at least 2 more months. Our goal continues to be to return to Chile and resume our work in person as soon as possible. It looks very good for a 2 week "mission trip" sometime this Fall (we already have tickets - just waiting on COVID and other travel restrictions to ease), and a return to the field full-time in the Spring. As of right now, we are blessed to be "missionaries in residence" and the mission work has actually increased while here, not diminished.

While in the states, we were able to attend our son Jesse's graduation from William Carey University. It has been a privilege to host MK's in our home nearly every weekend who are attending William Carey University. They are university students whose families are living far away in other countries serving the Lord.



Jesse's Graduation

On the foreign field front, we continue to be in regular contact with the brothers and sisters in Antofagasta and hear the reports of their own frustrations of life and ministry in their country. But we also hear (and see on video) how God is at work and the church is

continuing to grow in spite of difficult times. They continue to pray for our return. Due to the generosity of some individuals and churches, we have been able to send several love offerings to the Faria family in Chile and Brother Jaime and his wife Adriana in Durango, Mexico. Please pray for the excellent work continuing with them.



Brother Mario from Antofagasta

It is a privilege and honor to be allowed to continue doing "missions in exile" here in the US during this Pandemic. Mark made an urgent trip to Norfolk, Virginia with another family member to do an emergency intervention with extended family members. It was a good way to minister and help out in a very difficult situation. We have had a number of opportunities to share in the local churches in

Mississippi and Texas. In addition to continuing with work via ZOOM at the Bible Institutes, Mark has been in contact with pastor/missionary Pablo Ramirez in Antofagasta. We are partnering with him to teach in a newly-formed Baptist Bible Institute, training and discipling leaders in the church, and planting new churches. National Pastor/Missionary Pablo Ramirez and his precious family came to the USA for a visit. We hosted them in our home for a week-long visit in May. During that time, we worked on a plan of action for our return. He shared with us the new church start that members of his church did when they moved to another location.



Pastor/Missionary Pablo Ramirez & Family

We are excited to report that several have accepted Christ and were baptized in the town of Baquedano, about an hour from Antofagasta. This is the same place where the 2008 James Bond 007 movie was filmed, "Quantum of Solace". We loaned our television to the new church plant there so that they can have live video worship services with the church in Antofagasta. We look forward to returning and working to disciple these new believers. The church has expressed their desire for us to take up residence in this village and work with this new church plant. We are in prayer about this possibility and will keep you all informed.

We give thanks every day for your faithfulness in keeping our family in your prayers. We enjoyed some family time this past month as we traveled to Every Generation Farm with Life Impact Ministries in South Carolina. The ministry is for missionaries and pastors. We spent several days being coached and encouraged by the Bowen family as they ministered to us. It was a wonderful time sharing our frustrations with them and receiving love, prayer, and encouragement. We also had a lot of time to pray and make solid plans for our return to the mission field. We left there and drove up to New York City to visit with our son Michael who is doing an internship through William Carey University with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association. It was a wonderful time with him as he showed us the city where he loves to minister and the many spiritual needs. It was great getting to meet his pastor and see his heart for New York City as well..



Pam with her Oasis Coach



Missions with Michael in New York City

It means so much to us that you are partnering with us on the mission field. We love how God uses His people to get the job done. We are looking forward to returning to Chile soon. We know God has a great work for us to do there because Satan is working so hard to keep us out. Please continue to pray for us and the mission work in Chile and around the world. Pray as we **"Share the Light and Love of Christ around the world."** We would appreciate it if you would copy and share this **Best News** newsletter with your family, friends, and churches.

Love in Christ,
Mark, Pam, and Emily Best