



Alf and Hilary Cooper

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Location: Chile



What we do: Working to see churches planted and multiplied in Chile and beyond through pastoring La Trinidad de Las Condes church.

Dear praying friends,

Our return to Chile on 2 July was surprisingly blessed! First, we were able to meet our sweet Stella Marie, our tenth grandchild and as lovely as her mother, Melanie, and sister Emma! We so rejoiced to be with the family again in our home, shared for the moment with Mark, Dani, Ami and Sarah as they wait to move into their new home (they had to give up their flat as the owner needed to sell). On arrival we were met with a surprising welcome of grandchildren and later pastoral team all dressed up as PhDs to welcome Alf back very generously in recognition of the blessings conferred upon him at OCMS. How we laughed and enjoyed those moments!

We usually do our medicals on returning from the UK in Chile and we are fine, after good MOTs. Just Alf with high sugar in the blood so we need to pray that down and eat a little more carefully. Under Hilary's watchful eye, he has already managed to bring it down some 30 points!

La Trinidad is now overflowing in with blessings. We are receiving new visitors coming to the congregation every week and have had to mobilise our Beginners Group to the extent that we now have two running concurrently. Then all the Bible studies have got under the way and we calculate there are near 400 people studying the Bible (mostly online) in the church. Similarly the ministries have begun in such a way that they are reaching deeply into our surrounding culture. During the last Cursillo, which finished just this Sunday, two ex-members of a Satanist church came to Christ! Alleluia! This at a time when the "Luciferianos" are seeking status to build a "satanist temple". Please bind this in prayer!

We will soon be holding a workshop on "Biblical womanhood" on 31 August, aiming to restore confidence and Christian identity to women before the onslaught of various radical forms of feminism in our country. This after another workshop for men, held two weeks ago and attended by nearly 200 men. We are sensing that the Holy Spirit is making of us a robust church to face the coming battles in dark and dangerous times.

Our continent has been marked just this week by the Venezuelan elections (800,000 Venezuelans have sought shelter or a new life in Chile) and during the same weekend a massive March for Jesus in Colombia involving millions from churches from all over the nation. God is moving in Latin América, allowing the



*Alf's culminating moment
graduating at OCMS.*

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



conditions where the world gets hungry and needy and the church is strengthened in the Spirit.

As some of you have already noticed, the communications department at La Trinidad has been seeking new ways to evangelise the world! They convinced Alf, against his will initially (being the shy and retiring person he is!), to do Instagram stories daily.

This is because, they say, “people today need to get close to the pastor, seeking some closer relation to his life and not just his words”. So, beginning during that extraordinary week of goodbyes to Oxford culminating with the graduation at OCMS and later our arrival here you can find us at our Instagram: [alfandhilary](#). It may interest some of you and we don’t blame you if for others it’s not your English cup of tea! What has surprised me is the incredible response from people we haven’t heard from in years who draw near to the Lord through this new ministry. If that is so, Alf will continue in the new experiment!

Recently, Hilary and I visited our building in Batuco and as a result of massive storms a whole wall was blown down. Cables and posts have been felled by trees that crashed. So we will be rebuilding.

On Wednesday 31 July we held a crucial leaders’ meeting where we explored the accelerated growth we are experiencing. We began to think of moving to a new building. We have never wanted to be a mega-church but rather plant new churches as we grow. However, the crush is making it very difficult. We may need both styles of church. We also looked at the need to begin to look for Alf’s replacement in future years, given that he will be 75 next year! The team was so generous with their embrace and desire to move forward in strength for a while longer. We know the Holy Spirit will guide and we only want his best strategies for La Trinidad and for us. We will also let you know of plans for 2025, when we are intending to visit all our support churches!

Finally, a tribute to Evangelist Don Double who went to glory this week at the ripe age of 90. We in Chile owe him and Heather, Michael Darwood and team so much from the times they would come to Chile and encourage us into the fullness of ministry in the Spirit and growth in evangelistic outreach. Thanks Don, and “¡Gloria a Dios!” as he used to love to shout! Love and hugs to his dear family.

To all of you, our prayer and love,

Alf and Hilary



Photos from top to bottom: Reception on our return at home... and at church; our tenth grandchild, beautiful Stella Marie Quigley Cooper; Alf on Instagram: [alfandhilary](#); a storm wreaked havoc in Batuco.



Going further with Church Mission Society

Adelante: 6–7 September 2024. A hybrid event – in-person and online – to celebrate, learn about and pray for mission in and from Latin America. Book at churchmissionsociety.org/Adelante

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