



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.



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Our very dear praying friends,

Glory to God! We are now on the other side of our Cooper Celebration Tour and back in Chile with our family. Our hearts are overflowing with wonder at how God's grace kept us on the roads (with Google's help), in the many homes opened to us, sharing in love with friends from over 50 years, in the pulpits, in churches and conferences, over the whole tour! Thanks to every one of you for your warm, Christian welcome, love, hospitality, encouragement, friendship shared in the gospel over the tour months May, June and July. Hilary and I calculated that we visited 15 churches and events and slept in 22 beds (including visits to dear friends and family)! We will never forget the honourable goodbyes you gave us, the telling gifts (a painting at St Giles, Northampton, a book at All Saints' Sidmouth, and others) despite our protests relating to weighty return luggage!

And, of course, we were blessed by the most powerful send-off at the Summer Gathering, accompanied by our dear friends Judy and Paul Cooper of untold years of support. CMS's new CEO, Andy Roberts, anointed us with oil and sent us (with several others who had "finished the course") off into the next chapter of our lives. It was an unforgettable moment for us, as we thanked all the staff at CMS, particularly Jo Anthony and Paul Tester, our loving and servant-hearted bosses!

The purpose of the Celebration Tour was to share with as many of the churches as possible who have supported us from the UK during these 50 years of mission. We were able to say THANK YOU, and propose future support for CMS of other promising mission partners who are nearer the beginning of their work in Latin America (like Marcio Ciechanowicz and Noemi Celeti, with their out-of-the-box "church in the park").

We were very happy to be based in St Andrew's Chorleywood, our home church throughout these years, where Alf served as curate under David Pytches. Our dear friends Jane and Richard Gill and later Nick and Sian Hughes opened their homes and hearts to us while we relaxed, preparing Chilean barbecues and watching Wimbledon, and vicar Tim Horlock lent me his golf clubs for the duration of the tour to play on the Chorleywood Common! That is a friend indeed! Curiously, the BBC searched us out and came to film us at St Andrew's for Songs of Praise, wanting to remember the 33 miners' rescue, and to be shown during November (probably on the 9th, but watch out for it!).

A major surprise came from our precious "adopted family" friends, Beryl and Gordon Whitehead, who live in Northern Ireland. Alf began his residence in Chile in their home in December 1978. It was also in their home that we were engaged and developed our romance! Beryl and Gordon let us know they had arranged a major



A family gathering in Seaton

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



holiday for us at Rock House, Port Stewart, for five days after our New Wine commitments at Sligo. There we rested, visited the Giant's Causeway, went over the Rope Bridge and enjoyed visiting the Portrush post-British Open course. Hilary, who has been in mission all her life since she went out with the Barratt family (of SEAN fame) at the age of 1, always perceived the Whiteheads to be our "parents and guides" in the work they had started in Las Condes, and which we were able to take on later.

Our visits took us to: St Mary's, Wootton, where we celebrated confirmations and our dear friends Jojo and Peter Ackroyd told us of their own next move; St. John's, Fareham, with SEAN partners Derek and Judy Birmingham, St Andrew's Chorleywood, All Saints', Woodford Wells, where our friends Paul and Becky took us out to a Turkish lunch; the OCMS graduation, All Saints', Bexleyheath, where the friendly vicar, Trevor, hosted us for a

traditional English breakfast before the service; St John's, Whittle-le-Woods, All Saints' Sidmouth, St Mary's, Swindon, St. Paul's, Cheam, where the Quiet Revival has lately brought 300 new people joining up; and finally St Giles', Northampton, who gave us a splendid lunch send-off. There is not enough space to tell all but suffice it to say that at each place your love overwhelmed us! Thank you!

Then came Northern Ireland, New Wine, Sligo, two seminars and the Final Night of Glory. On Sunday we spoke at two churches, Dollingstown and Magheralin! We returned to England for the CMS Summer Gathering and from there were taken to Heathrow on 3 August. We spent a loving and hilarious four days in Chicago with our family and then flew to Chile on the 9th.

Family and friends were uppermost on our list of love visits: Pancha and Terry Barratt, Duncan and Tasha Cox, David and Patty Dixie, a surprise visit from Grace and Jason Barratt, Charles and Charlie, Mary Pytches, our dear Bishop Colin Bazely, Bob and Mary Hopkins, Julian and Rachel Smith, Brian and Gill Skinner, all culminating in Marcus and Sonia Prior's wedding, where we were able to see our lovely Chilean cousins.

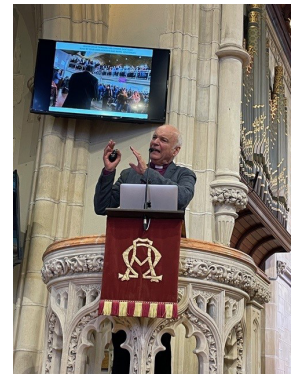
So, we are now back in Chile, fully active in the work here at La Trinidad, but that will be the subject of the next prayer letter.

We greatly value your continued prayers and support until we come to the end of our mission partner service next summer. For those who have supported us regularly, CMS will be in touch with you about the possibility of continuing your support for CMS through another mission partner or partners. If you would like to talk about this, please get in touch on 01865 787407 or hello@churchmissionsociety.org

With our love in the Lord,

Alf and Hilary Cooper

PS The only mishap we suffered was losing a pair of black golf trousers somewhere on the tour! Anyone find them? Please give them to Paul Tester, who will be coming to Chile!



Photos from top to bottom: A quiet moment in Seaton; preaching at over 15 churches and events; with Beryl and Gordon Whitehead in Northern Ireland; with Judy and Paul Cooper at the Summer Gathering



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

It's so encouraging to hear stories from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to churches. In England, Fiona is pioneering creative ways of connecting with people who aren't in church. And Andy's story about prisoners in Brazil finding Jesus is incredible. Read more and get inspired by more stories of hope at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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