



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

Hi dear friends,

You are very valued, as those who have accompanied us on this 50-year journey with so much faithful prayer! This is our last official prayer/link letter as CMS mission partners. Hilary's retirement in May marks 50 years of service! Blessings on all of you! Special thanks to our lovely CMS staff who have always cared for us, especially Henry Scriven, Jo Anthony and Paul Tester, our pastoral carers!

Funeral of Terry Barratt

What better than to say goodbye over Easter! We will all meet again in the Risen Christ some glad day! This thought has been very much on our minds over the last few weeks, as we shared with our beloved Panchita (Terry's wife and my sister). We wrote this letter in the air and on land as we travelled over for the sad but glorious event of Terry Barratt's funeral (Hilary's brother) on 11 March. It was such a comfort and blessing to Panchita, Hilary and all our family to have many of you lovingly present as we remembered many moving testimonies from family, colleagues and friends around Terry's extraordinary life and ministry. Neil Milmine led the crematorium service, as Terry's long-term friend from childhood and Camp of Heroes days, giving us glimpses of the life they lived in Cholchol (and pranks they would get up to, such as blowing holes through mission compound walls with a homemade cannon!). The family then gathered over a carvery in the pub across the road from St Michael's, Axmouth, Terry and Pancha's church. We shared together in an emotional, glorious celebration service in memory of Terry. The grandchildren spoke so tenderly! The great ministries of CMS and SEAN testified to all that has transpired over these years of dedicated service. The funeral can be viewed at: www.funeralstreamingservice.co.uk/terricks-barratt, using the password Wednesday.

Not yet quite retired!

We previously shared our plans to hand over the role of rector in La Trinidad after 40 years. We thought we had the right candidate, however, this has fallen through and we are back holding the fort for now. We have a feeling we will need to train up a home-grown boy and put him in with Alf's backing for a while. We are working on this option with the bishop. We are enjoying the loving, brilliant move of the Holy Spirit we have been experiencing lately through many ministries like Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, Women's Encounter, Youth Encounter, Children's Encounter, Alpha... yes, all the many ministries you have heard us name all these years... still being run... and the Jesus Workshop.



With Terry and Pancha in better moments

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



Jesus Workshop

So, life is suddenly full again! Very full! This weekend we are hosting Jesus Workshop, an extraordinary Holy Spirit day when we take people to Jesus and ask him to come and produce in us repentance, healing, liberation, fullness of the Holy Spirit. The church is already packed to capacity, and yet these ministries keep bringing in new families who are then brought through beginners' groups and then the many Bible study cells that disciple them... Very often we have a funeral going on at the same time, where more people are reached for Christ! Welcome to La Trinidad!

A strategic moment for Chile

Alf has just returned today from the presidential palace. The recent elections resulted in the centre-right candidate José Antonio Kast sweeping into power. He is a conservative and has begun far-reaching changes that should bring development and growth after a period of stagnancy. His values are also clearly Christian. Kast named Daniel Anabalón as his chaplain; Daniel in turn asked Alf to help him with the chaplaincy. So they walked the entire palace, praying over every nook and cranny, planning a service of consecration for the new government. Again, one never knows where these new openings will end up (in 2010 it was the 33 miners!) and we prayed for opportunities to reach Chile again for Christ.

Academic work

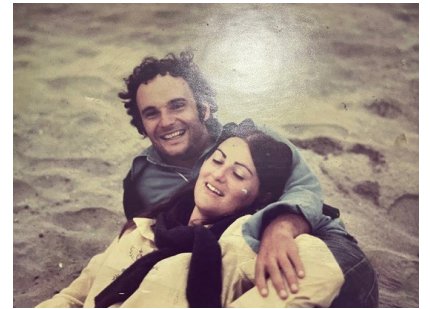
Alf has been surprised to keep receiving invitations to write papers and attend conferences to expound on his thesis. We will both travel to Perú for a conference on transformations with Dr Wonsuk Ma from Oral Roberts University in May.

49 years of tender love!

This week we rejoice in 49 years of married love as we worship God together for all his favour towards us. Hilary is now a full-time grandmother, babysitting regularly as the generations grow before us! Today we had the wonderfully exciting news that Mark (with Dani's support!) passed his very difficult CFA-3 exam, making him a top world class financial consultant! Jahnn is adventuring successfully in spheres of AI with big companies, all while he and Ara share in our church and go forward for ordination. Melanie and Alan are at present in Punta Cana celebrating Alan's parents' 50th wedding anniversary with the Quigley family. Ryan and Mariana and family are growing in all sorts of academic, sporting and theatrical achievements, still based in Chicago and very blessed in their local church.

So, we thank God for these wonderfully fruitful years under his hand of grace and power! We want to keep preaching Jesus the rest of our days! This past Easter weekend has already led to several doors to push, media openings for the kingdom and the journey round the moon, which brought back memories of James Irwin's encounter with Jesus on the lunar surface, which Alf translated. Our final plea to you then is Paul's: "Pray also for us, that whenever we speak, words may be given us so that we will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel." (Ephesians 6:19, emphasis ours)

A fond embrace until we meet here or There,
Alf and Hilary Cooper



Photos from top to bottom: While we await retirement; new openings at the palace; 49 years of loving tenderness; the whole tribe together over the summer



Mission doesn't stop – it goes on!

As our own season of mission with CMS comes to an end, we are full of faith for dear Marcio and Noemi, who are, like us, sharing the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church. They are particularly in need of support at this time, and we warmly encourage you to stand with them in prayer and, if you are able, in giving. Support them at churchmissionsociety.org/mnc