



# Alf and Hilary Cooper

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Contact details:  
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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.

Very dear friends in prayer,

I write this in the air on Copa Airlines on our way to Chicago to visit our son Ryan, wife Marianna and lovely grandchildren Nico, Cata, Maria and Felipe. We will be with them for two days and then fly on to Oxford, staying for the four months that take us up to the Lambeth Conference. On the way to the airport we were able to drop into Clínica Santa María and see our newly born granddaughter, Sarah, who is Mark and Dani's second child, born just a few hours earlier! We also just managed the first confirmation service in Renca Resurrección church! God is good!

In the UK our intention is to advance significantly with my doctorate at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS), and to visit as many of our link churches as possible. We will, of course, begin our travel to our Seaton home and see our siblings Terry and Pancha, and share in Hilary's sister Rosemary's remembrance service. We will weep and rejoice together as we remember her life full of fun, sentiment, passion and careful, loving, family commitment to her children, Tasha and Kevin, and her grandchildren, Savannah and Seby. It will be a hard but intimate family time, no doubt.

Then to OCMS, where we start work together with Dr Andrew Kirk, my new supervisor, on the final stage of my investigation into the theology of Willis Hoover, the founder of Chilean Pentecostalism, and how his theology moves from Methodist Sanctification through Azusa Pentecost and then to develop the Methodist Pentecostal brand that is his own. I hope to contribute to a new understanding of Pentecostality (to use Bernardo Campos's term) that can enrich all churches. I was very encouraged as I managed to get through the transfer panel at the beginning of the year from the MPhil to the PhD stage. Now for the writing up. Please pray hard for these months of academic rigour!

As we leave Chile, we are so happy to see the family prospering. Baby Sarah comes to the family just as Mark changes jobs. Melanie and Alan and children Benji and Emma happily shared their coastal apartment with us. Jahnn and Ara are now serving as pastors in the Santiago English Community Church, where I was once a Scout at the age of 12! It was there too that we courted with Hilary after her arrival from Argentina and later began the Providencia church so many years ago in 1978. There we learned the basic lessons we have used ever since in planting and developing new churches: evangelism, discipling, mobilising every member, leadership training, church planting from cells. We will, no doubt, be sharing about these concepts as we tour beautiful Britain.



*Confirmations in Renca Resurrección just before we left.*

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



Chile is grappling with its political future. As we depart, left wing and right wing groups are at odds over developing a new constitution. There is increasing resistance to the document being proposed (56 per cent rejection) and if the referendum at the end of the process is unfavourable, the whole enterprise will return to parliament. You can read more about this in the press. Our Christian radio programme beams out every week on Tuesdays and explores whether we should vote against the proposal on 4 September as evangelical Christians.

Our recently formed Province met for Synod over the weekend of Labour Day with very encouraging results. After the separation of four dioceses for two years as each formed and

was shut away under COVID-19 restrictions, it was so good just to meet together again. Tensions had naturally emerged as the infant Province finds its feet, but Archbishop Zavala and team did a very good job of bringing harmony into the canonical reform and future expectations.

We are expectant and enthused about our home leave return to the CMS offices, where we are always so warmly welcomed and kindly helped with the visitation programme that emerges. We look forward enormously to renewing our friendships with so many link churches that have already asked for us to visit on Sundays. No doubt, that will be the highlight of these next months.

Lambeth looms at the end of July with all its challenges and preparations as the Church faces a very changed and dangerous Europe and world. We have been asked to contribute with our testimony of church planting and mission so please pray that we do enrich the gathering.

Then our return to La Trinidad in September is already defined as a time to seek God for our transition in leadership. There is such a great team in place that we can leave for these months easily but when we return after having been away, we shall devote the time to mission, church planting and raising up the future leadership of a church that has given so much over these years! At present, as we leave, the team has developed EMOonline (Marriage Encounter online), Cursillo Online and is returning to Youth, Children's, Women's and Men's Encounters in person format as COVID recedes. Our ELIM (Leadership and Lay Minister programme) has over 40 students and on my return, we expect to licence a good batch of lay ministers (I always declare: "the future of the Anglican Church"! ). Two such students, Max and Hernan, have moved into the Pastoral Training College (CEP) and we expect they will be ordained after due process.

For the moment our church has sent us out with prophecies that we will see glorious moments of life-giving ministry as well as open doors in surprising places. Please pray!

Alf and Hilary Cooper



*Photos from top to bottom: Beautiful Sarah, born to Mark and Dani 5 May; With lovely family in Chicago where Ryan takes on the Weiss Fund at the University; Good fellowship at the Provincial Synod!; Celebrating Hilary's birthday at CMS House on arrival.*



## Going further with Church Mission Society

**Prayer is the engine room of mission:** Here at CMS, we know that the history of mission is the history of answered prayer. We would love you to join us as a praying community around the world at [churchmissionsociety.org/prayer](https://churchmissionsociety.org/prayer)