



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,

We are so aware that someone has been praying for us as we have travelled through beautiful England in the spring and summer. We have had travelling mercies showered on us, so no accidents as we covered some 3,000 miles between Oxford and our various link churches. We have been based in the CMS community house in Iffley Road under the loving care of Efraim and Ruth, who have a special gift as wardens of making us feel welcome and part of the community. Alf's role of emptying the dishwasher and cleaning the kitchen fitted well with his early rising habits, and many a time of worship and communion with the Lord happened there. This is the key to everything else, really: prayer. So thanks so much for all your lifting of us up before the Throne during this busy time.



*Family moments in Iffley, Oxford, with
Patty and David, Tasha and Duncan*

Alf also worked on his PhD studies. When he arrived he had just managed to get over the threshold of transfer from the MPhil stage and had a unique three months before him to write up his thesis. With the help of his supervisor, Andrew Kirk, he was able to work hard on the investigation of Willis Hoover's theology on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and develop a pneumatological theory that could contribute to the present conversation on the subject. His goal was the dean's review in August, at which, thankfully, he was able to arrive in one piece and successfully pass into the final stage of his writing up of the study. He will now return to Chile to do his final version, submit it and go for the chequered flag next year. Again, many of you have continually told us you are praying for this unusual aspect of our ministry.

Meanwhile, Hilary has been going over her father Tony Barratt's diaries. She and her sister Patty (with whom we also spent some lovely family days!) are looking to present these in a more readable form. Anyone wanting to research the early years of Theological Education by Extension will find gold dust here! In fact, while spending a few days with (Hilary's) brother Terry and (Alf's) sister Pancha, we were able to witness and share in the writing of a very important and ground-breaking paper by Terry on the early beginnings of the SEAN (Seminary by Extension to All Nations) ministry in Tucumán. How we rejoiced as we reflected on the amazing spread of SEAN into hundreds of countries and languages, something beyond their wildest dreams when they started as a family in the 70s.

As we have mentioned before, our greatest joy is to share in fellowship with all of you as we visit link parishes. We calculate that we visited 10 parishes in the four months we were in the UK and in each,

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



we were surprised by your love, interest, expressed blessing and constant support for us. Some are now extending their mission fellowship by Zoom prayer meetings to which we are invited... a great idea!

And then came the Lambeth Conference and Irish Kingdom Voices, one of the main reasons for making our stay so long this time. Despite the dreaded threats of confrontation that we expected in Lambeth, there was ample opportunity to express Global South insistence on the 1.10

resolution regarding homosexual practice (which the archbishop re-affirmed to a standing ovation), and also to listen to those who felt same-sex marriage was a justice issue that the Church would need to learn to live with. Although it was not expected that there would be solutions to the tensions, a kind of Gamaliel principle now hangs over the Anglican Church. We wait to see how God solves, with his blessing or otherwise, this human and ecclesiological impasse. New "instruments of resolution" that could eventually bind all the Anglican Communion may be the result of the consultations. However, Archbishop Welby made sure we did a minimum of navel-gazing and truly looked at huge problems across the globe: poverty, gospel deprivation, land abuse, human indignity, social injustice, lack of care for the marginalised. Many testimonies of how the Lord is moving so mightily caused us to rejoice. The wonderful services in the cathedral and above all, the fellowship with so many from all over the world, warmed our hearts and strengthened our sense of being Anglican.

After Lambeth, a delegation of Latin Americans and Africans went to Ireland by bus and ferry. There we were able to catch up with our dear friends Beryl and Gordon Whitehead, our "spiritual parents" in Chile. Between busy church programmes and a large CMS/SAMS rally in St Anne's Cathedral we were even able to take a day in Omagh visiting their daughter Marianne and family, husband Maloux and his crepe-making machine!

So now we have returned to Chile, via Chicago to visit Ryan, Marianne and family. Ours is a country deeply wounded and divided, fraught with the tension of the recent vote over the proposed far-left Constitution. Chile's future depends on how the nation chooses to write its political and societal path for our children and grandchildren. The evangelical churches called for a day of prayer and fasting on 1 September in which we took part before voting on 4 September. The far-left Constitution was rejected, in part due to accusations of improperly balanced democratic freedoms, lack of respect for the unborn and lack of proper representation. Please stand with us in prayer as a new, healthier path is proposed.

So, as we began thanking you for your prayers, we finish by coveting them for all the above!

With our love in Jesus,

Alf and Hilary Cooper



Photos from top to bottom: With Latin America partners and Jo Anthony and Andrew Johnson from CMS; the inaugural service in Canterbury; dinner at Archbishop Justin and Caroline's residence in Canterbury; with Beryl and Gordon Whitehead in Northern Ireland



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