



# Alf and Hilary Cooper

Link Letter no. 38 | December 2022

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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 praying partners,

We are now firmly back in Chile, it's now two months since we arrived and Christmas is nearly upon us! We continue to see how people need Jesus for their eternal salvation and for their daily peace! Just last night a young lad gave testimony after the Youth Encounter this weekend, how his life had been a shambles, so depressed after lockdown and coming out of lockdown, until this weekend. He had never understood why he was alive until he received Jesus! As we celebrate Christmas again, how wonderful to stay focused on this fact that Jesus really is the only one who can put us right with God again. Praise the incarnate Son! "He will be called the prince of peace." (Isaiah 9:6)



*Family holiday in Frutillar, south Chile*

We actually landed on the day of the all-important decision to accept or reject an inherently neo-Marxist, "indigenist" Constitution, which (if you have been tracking with us in this) you will know was rejected by a huge 62 per cent. That is a relief for Chile and now mandates a sound working agenda for a new, much more rational, just and level-headed attempt by experts who know what they are doing. So we have lived days of great happiness and hope over the last two months. That is not to say that narco and terrorist violence is diminished, but at least it is situated clearly among those aspects of life since the "social outburst" that Chileans reject today. The new government has had to back police and the armed forces, an about-face from their stance in the opposition, two years ago. So we are gradually getting into the new possibilities before us.

On Friday 28 October I was in La Moneda again for the celebration of the Day of the Reformation. Again I met my new president, and again I reminded him that he is our "first Anglican president". He chuckles because, despite his professed agnosticism, he knows I am referring to his happy years in our Anglican British school he attended as a child. So we pray for him and for more opportunities to share Christ with all the authorities. May God's irresistible grace reach their hearts and minds!

Last week was a plus for my PhD studies. Logging into a WhatsApp from the OCMS college we had a "shut up and write" day. I was able to write 7,000 of the 10,000 words needed for my last chapter. There will now come a massive overhauling job before submission to tutors and then college, but at least the ground is being covered bit by bit.

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



We have just come off our second diocesan synod. Synods are often boring gatherings. Not this one! We came off it feeling we had been on a Cursillo, such was God's blessing, presence and the unity among us as we looked to plan the future mobilising of the church, sending many labourers into God's harvest field all around us. It was visionary and practical. We had prayed and planned a great deal for it and it paid off!

We are back with Marriage Encounter! Although we are still running online Marriage Encounters, a brave team decided

to take us back to the original retreat format. Again, the same victorious and healing fruit! Where is God taking us?

### So finally, a short family update:

We are delighted that Ryan and family are coming to Chile over the Christmas holiday. We will share them, of course, with Mariana's family in Buenos Aires, but it will be such a joy to have them here again, living with us for a week or two. The grandchildren are prospering rapidly in their new American environment, pursuing their favourite hobbies and sports. Jahnn and Ara are doing a great job at the English Santiago Community Church. They work closely with us and with the Spanish work but it is amazing to think that they will be living in the house Hilary lived in for a while when she first came to Chile. Jessie is now growing into sweetness itself as she goes to infant school together with her cousin Ami. Mark and Dani and their two beauties, Ami and Sara, are living as neighbours to Jahnn and Ara, continuing their close communion shared in Bethel. Melanie and Alan and their two, Benji and Emma, are moving into the next phase of life with children going to "big" school. But they are remarkably able to keep priorities right as they continue to make time for romance and sport!

Hilary and I continue to escape for small periods to a small seaside town where I write and relax and she walks and enjoys sudokus. We return refreshed always!

We share our love for Jesus with all of you and pray his peace fills your lives and homes.

Alfred and Hilary Cooper



**Photos from top to bottom:** Melanie, Benji and Emma on the coast, Punta Puyai; Mark, Dani, Ami and Sarah in Punta Puyai; Ryan, Mariana and family being received in their church in Chicago; Jessie and Ami walking to kindergarten, much to their parents' relief



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